

Ms Claire Bleakley  
GE Free NZ

Email: [p.bleakley@gefrees.org.nz](mailto:p.bleakley@gefrees.org.nz)

Dear Ms Bleakley

### **Freedom of Information (FOI) Request 10 January 2018 – A1138**

I refer to your recent request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) seeking correspondence and emails between FSANZ and the A1138 Applicant - International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) - relating to Application A1138.

I am writing to advise you of my decision that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of this request.

I am an officer authorised under subsection 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests, including the decision to impose a charge for processing of a request.

#### ***Charge payable***

My preliminary assessment is that you are liable to pay a charge of **AUD\$585.00**

This assessment is in accordance with the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*. It is also based on my assessment of the work required by FSANZ to process your request. The basis for the calculation of the charge is detailed in the Attachment to this letter. You will note that consultation with third parties will be required should you proceed with this request.

Please note that time spent processing your previous and withdrawn request relating to A1138 has not been included and counted for the purposes of assessing the charges for this request.

#### ***Your right to contend the charge***

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or
- should not be imposed.

Please note that, if you do request that this charge be reduced or not imposed, the decision maker in our agency must take into account:

- whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship;
- whether giving access to the documents is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public; and
- any other relevant matter.

### ***Deposit required***

As the charge exceeds AUD\$100, a 25% deposit (AUD\$146.25) will be sought if the charge is imposed.

The deposit is not refundable except in limited circumstances (e.g. if FSANZ fails to make a decision on your request within the statutory time limit). It may be refundable in part if the final charge is less than the deposit paid.

### ***Payment***

Fees may be paid by direct deposit (preferred) or by cheque as follows:

<b>Direct deposits</b> should be directed to:	<b>Cheques</b> should be made payable to <b><i>Food Standards Australia New Zealand (GEF 10 Jan 18)</i></b> and sent to:
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Tenancy 28, Cnr Franklin St & Flinders Way, Manuka ACT 2603  <b>Reference:</b> <b>GEF 10 Jan 18</b> <b>BSB:</b> 062-910 <b>Account No.:</b> 1000 8279 <b>Account Name:</b> Food Standards Australia New Zealand <b>SWIFT Code:</b> CTBAAU2S <b>Bank Account</b> <b>Currency:</b> Australian Dollars	Finance Department Food Standards Australia New Zealand PO Box 7186 CANBERRA BC ACT 2610 AUSTRALIA
<b><i>Please advise the FOI Coordinator when you have made this payment.</i></b>	

### ***The time you have to respond and what you need to do***

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We therefore expect a response from you by close of business on **10 March 2018**. By that date, you must do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (this will mean that you will not be entitled to access the requested documents until the full charge is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons; or
- withdraw your request.

Please send your response via email to [FOI@foodstandards.gov.au](mailto:FOI@foodstandards.gov.au). If you do not provide us with a written response by the above deadline, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the charge (either in full or the required deposit) or on the day on which this agency makes a decision not to impose a charge.

**Further information**

The contact officer for this matter is:

Mary Jordan  
FOI Coordinator  
Ph: (02) 6271 2222  
Email: [FOI@foodstandards.gov.au](mailto:FOI@foodstandards.gov.au)

Please contact Ms Jordan if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Dr Scott Crerar  
General Manager

8 February 2018

**Attachment**

1. Basis for my preliminary assessment of the charge



**ATTACHMENT**  
**Basis for preliminary estimate assessment of the charge**

**FOI GE Free NZ 10 January 2018**

<b>Document estimate</b>			
Number of documents potentially relevant to this request			24
Number of pages contained in the documents potentially relevant to this request			137
<b>PROCESSING CHARGES</b>			
<b>Search and retrieval</b>			
<b>Task</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Cost @ AUD\$15/hr</b>	
Search and retrieval of relevant electronic	14	210	
Preparation of schedule of documents potentially in scope.	5	75	
<b>A. Search and retrieval subtotal</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>285</b>	
<b>Decision making</b>			
<b>Task</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Cost @ \$20/hr</b>	
Examination of documents	5 Rounded up	100	
Consultation with third parties.	4	80	
Preparation of documents for release Redaction.	7 Rounded up	140	
Preparation of notice of access decision	4	80	
<b>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>400</b>	
<b>B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>685</b>	
<b>ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT</b>			
<b>ESTIMATED TIME (before deduction of 5 hours)</b>			<b>39</b>
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL (total of A and B)</b>			<b>AUD\$585</b>
<b>REQUIRED DEPOSIT (25%)</b>			<b>AUD\$146.25</b>