

24 September 2024
Claire Bleakley
GE Free New Zealand
c/o claire@gefree.org.nz

Dear Claire

Official Information Act Request (PFR Ref. 0918.3.1.09.24)

Further to your request under the Official Information Act of 18 September 2024 regarding Plant & Food Research's Endeavour Fund research programme to cultivate fish cell lines, please find the requested information below.

1. Will the seafood cell lines involve genetic modification, or gene editing techniques?

No genetic modification is involved in developing the seafood cell lines.

2. Will the culture media contain genetically modified proteins?

No genetic modification is used in developing the culture media.

3. If GE is used, may we have the EPA approval code for this application?

As no genetic modification is involved, no EPA approvals are required.

4. What is the energy consumption use to make a lab-based fillet?

The research is building knowledge to understand how to culture cells from seafood. At this early stage, no products have been created. The energy consumption will be a factor in designing any future applied technologies that may follow on from this discovery work, but this is beyond the scope of the research programme.

The final three questions were predicated on there being genetic modification of the seafood cultures or the growing media used in the programme, which, as noted above, is not the case.

Finally, I note that you have the right to refer our assessment of your request to the Office of the Ombudsman for review (complaint@ombudsmen.parliament.nz).

Please address any correspondence in this matter to OIA@plantandfood.co.nz quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely



Emma Timewell

Communications Manager