



15 April 2025

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0010274-Claire Bleakley

Claire Bleakley
GE-Free New Zealand
claire@gefree.org.nz

Tēnā koe Claire

Thank you for your email of 14 February 2025 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

We note that MBIE has been developing a Gene Regulatory Bill relating to Gene Technology and we request these documents

2324-1836 Biotechnology Regulator – process 8 February 2024

2324-2057 Regulation of Biotechnology – Legislation bid - 12 February 2024

2324-2241 Regulation of Biotechnology – Joint Ministers meeting 14 March 2024

2324- 3529 Regulation of gene technology Third Ministers meeting 5 June 2024

2324-3917 – Meeting with Life Sciences Network 24 June

2324- 3917 Event Briefing Regulation of gene technology fourth joint ministers meeting 25 June

2425-0261 Regulation of gene technology- draft cabinet paper for Ministerial consultation – 11 July 2024

2425-0421 Regulation of gene technology – regulatory impact statement – 24 July 2024

What are the implications of the new biotechnology regulations and legislation on current RMA and HSNO Acts on existing precautionary or GE Free regions in Aotearoa?

Will the Fast Track Bill allow the Ministers to override local body and community decisions on GE?

Will there be public submissions and the ability to challenge the decisions?

We request these documents under the Official Information Act 1982



Most of the response to this request was set out in my letter of 14 March 2025. This letter provides you with the two further documents that I indicated required further consultations:

- 2324-2057 - Regulation of Biotechnology – Legislation bid - 12 February 2024
- 2324-2230 - Meeting with Life Sciences Network 24 June.

Please note '2324-2230' is the correct reference for the Life Sciences briefing. The correct briefing for reference '2324-3917' was *2324- 3917 Event Briefing Regulation of gene technology fourth joint ministers meeting 25 June* which was covered in my earlier response.

Please note some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons;
- 9(2)(b)(ii), to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information;
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;

I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'de Jong', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Tony de Jong
Manager Biotechnology Policy & Regulation
Technology and Innovation