



OIA22-0513

30 June 2022

Grace Haden
grace@verisure.co.nz

Tēnā koe Grace

Thank you for your email of 8 June 2022. In your email, you raised a number of points about the investigation by the SPCA and subsequent prosecution of the owners of Volkerson Kennels for animal welfare offences. Your email also requested information from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

The purpose of this letter is to provide a decision under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for your request for information. I will respond separately in relation to the other matters raised in your email of 8 June 2022.

You requested:

All business records which will trace the dogs from the minute they were seized until they were disposed of.

As you are aware, the investigation into Volkerson Kennels was carried out by Animal Welfare Inspectors employed by the SPCA. MPI does not hold the records you have requested.

Therefore, your request is declined under section 18(g) of the OIA, as *the information requested is not held by the department or venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is... held by another department (for itself and for a departmental agency hosted by it or an interdepartmental executive board serviced by it) or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.*

You may wish to consider requesting this information from the SPCA. I note that the SPCA is not covered by the OIA.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with MPI at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku iti noa, nā

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