

ENQ-40929-T2J6V7

26 March 2021

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Via: [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request received on 15 February 2021, for the following information:

“(1) the details of the work experience of the team members

(2) clarification of your applications and decision making for elucidation of your process.

The response to your request follows.

As shown in our response to your request of 2 February 2021, which provided the academic qualifications of the New Organisms team and their experience relevant to the subject matter of a particular application, our New Organisms team has a wide range of backgrounds and a range of previous work experiences. This includes experience with other regulators (such as the Ministry for Primary Industries), commercial operations (such as AEL (Laboratory of Environmental Analysis)) and research institutes (such as Crown Research Institutes).

On 5 March 2021 we gave you a link to the EPA's LinkedIn page and noted that several staff members in the New Organisms team who work on applications for the introduction of new organisms have profiles there. LinkedIn profiles hold details of previous work experience of members.

Team members have a length of experience with the EPA ranging from seven years to four weeks, totalling a collective 29 years' experience working in the New Organisms team. New Organisms applications that this team has worked on are on the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/database-search/hsno-application-register/>

In regard to your second question around application processes, the following links may be useful.

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/new-organisms/applying-for-approval/the-application-process/>

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/new-organisms/applying-for-approval/what-types-of-approvals-are-there/>

If there is anything that is not clear about the process, we are happy to explain. Please contact me via Ministerials@epa.govt.nz.

On 16 March 2021, you responded to our email and advised us that you have read the profiles of three New Organisms team members on LinkedIn. You subsequently asked,

“Can you please tell me how many other people are working on the New Organisms Team?”

In response to this question, the New Organisms team is made up of eight members, which include a manager and an administrator. The three team members who have made their information available

on LinkedIn are the people who are relevant to the specific application you have referred to, as the other team members are working on other matters.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz.

We will publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz, within 10 working days from today. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Hill

General Manager, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms
Regulatory Systems and Operations