

18 December 2019

By email only: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act #19.098 - Vegan Claims

1. We refer to your request to the Commerce Commission (the Commission) received on 2 December 2019 for information about the history of vegan claims on food products, specifically the role of allergens and what is and is not allowed.
2. We treated this as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).
3. We transferred your request to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on 3 December 2019 under section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA, on the basis that we believed it to be more closely connected with the functions of MPI.
4. You clarified the scope of your request to information about management or investigation of reports or complaints about vegan claims on a food where there are also conflicting statements on the labelling about cross contact with allergens (such as milk or eggs).
5. On 9 December 2019, MPI transferred your clarified request to the Commission under section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA, on the basis that MPI believed it to be more closely connected with the functions of Commission.

Our response

6. We have decided to grant your request.
7. The Commission does not hold any information responsive to your request. We have not received any complaints about or undertaken any investigations into vegan food claims where there are conflicting statements about cross contract with allergens.

8. Please note the Commission will be publishing this response to your request on our website. Your personal details will be redacted from the published response.
9. Please do not hesitate to contact us at uia@comcom.govt.nz if you have any questions about this request.

Yours sincerely

Mary Sheppard

Mary Sheppard
OIA Coordinator

Released Under Official Information Act 1982