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19 June 2025

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2025067376

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 21 May 2025 for information regarding food additives. I understand you also have submitted a similar request to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). You requested:

*“As MOH administers the Food Act please supply answers to the following:-*

*1. Was this Ministry consulted by MPI or any other Ministry in the decision to allow a 100 fold increase in a crop that is a fundamental food source for humans.?*

Please note that MPI, not the Ministry of Health, administers the Food Act 2014. The Ministry understands that no decision has been made in relation to this matter as the proposal was out for public consultation and closed on 15 May 2025: [www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/68256-Proposals-to-Amend-the-New-Zealand-Food-Notice-Maximum-Residue-Levels-for-Agricultural-Compounds](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/68256-Proposals-to-Amend-the-New-Zealand-Food-Notice-Maximum-Residue-Levels-for-Agricultural-Compounds)

*2. Did MOH request to be consulted on this issue? If not, why not?*

*3. If you were consulted what scientific evidence did you provide to justify what is a 100% fold increase in a compound known to have adverse effects in humans as a chelating agent, an antibiotic and an EDC with significant effects on thyroid production.”*

The Ministry was not consulted before the proposal went out for public consultation. The relevant toxicological expertise required to undertake an assessment of any potential risk is within NZ Food Safety, a business unit of MPI. Should NZ Food Safety identify an issue of potential health concern, we would expect them to reach out to us for discussion and advice.

If you require further information, MPI can be contacted via [official.informationact@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:official.informationact@mpi.govt.nz)

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz).

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Old', is positioned above the typed name.

Dr Andrew Old  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui**