

16 December 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your official information request dated 29 November 2021, transferred from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to OSPRI on 08 December 2021 seeking:

*All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of [OSPRI] that uses purified bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis* to prove causation of the alleged Tuberculosis disease in animals.*

#### **Our response**

The information we hold in relation to your request is publicly available. Per section 18(d) of the Official Information Act, we are not obliged to provide publicly available information. However, as a goodwill gesture, we have elected to provide copies of the following:

1. Corner, L.A.L., Buddle B.M., Morris R.S. (2003). Experimental Infection of Brushtail Possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) with *Mycobacterium bovis* by Conjunctival Instillation. *Veterinary Journal*, 166(2): 177-84.
2. Griffin J.F., Chinn D.N., Rodgers C.R., Mackintosh C.G. (2001). Optimal models to evaluate the protective efficacy of tuberculosis vaccines. *Tuberculosis*, 81(1/2): 133–9.
3. Buddle, B.M., Aldwell, F.E., Pfeffer, A., de Lisle, G.W., Corner, L.A. (1994). Experimental *Mycobacterium bovis* infection of cattle: Effect of dose of *M. bovis* and pregnancy on immune responses and distribution of lesions. *New Zealand Veterinary Journal*, 42(5): 167-172.
4. Buddle B.M., Aldwell, F.E., Skinner M.A., de Lisle, G.W., Denis, M., Vordermeier, H.M., Hewinson R.G., Wedlock, D.N. (2005). Effect of oral vaccination of cattle with lipid-formulated BCG on immune responses and protection against bovine tuberculosis. *Vaccine* 23: 3581–9.
5. Griffin, J.F.T., Rodgers, C.R., Liggett, S., Mackintosh, C.G. (2006). Tuberculosis in ruminants: characteristics of intra-tonsillar *Mycobacterium bovis* infection models in cattle and deer. *Tuberculosis*, 86(6): 404-18
6. Nugent, G., Whitford, E.J., Yockney, I., Perry, M., Tompkins, D.M., Holtslag, N., Cross, M.L. (2012). Percutaneous interdigital injection of *Mycobacterium bovis* as a model for tuberculous lesion development in wild brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*). *Journal of Comparative Pathology*, 2012 (Jun): 1-10.
7. Corner, L.A., Presidente, P.J.A. (1981). *Mycobacterium bovis* infection in the brush-tailed possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*): II. Comparison of experimental infections with an Australian cattle strain and a New Zealand possum strain. *Veterinary Microbiology*, 6(4): 351-366.

8. Pfeffer, A., Buddle, B.M., Aldwell, F.E. (1994). Tuberculosis in the brushtail possum (*Trichosaurus vulpecula*) after intracheal inoculation with a low dose of *Mycobacterium bovis*. *Journal of Comparative Pathology*, 111: 353-63

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review our response to your information request. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Jennifer Berryman**

Senior Advisor, Business Services and Performance

## OIA Request - response

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 1:37 PM

To: inforequest <inforequest@ospri.co.nz>

Greetings,

I think you failed to receive my full request, it must have been missed when MPI transferred my request to you.

Here is my full request which was missing in your response:

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This is a formal request for access to general records, made under the *Official Information Act*.

### Description of Requested Records:

All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of the Ministry of Primary Industries that uses purified bacterium *Mycobacterium Bovis* to prove causation of the alleged Tuberculosis disease in animals.

Please note that I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to:

- Use valid controls
- Satisfy all 4 Koch's Postulates

The 4 Koch's Postulates are stated below:

1. *The microorganism must be found in abundance in all organisms suffering from the disease, but should not be found in healthy organisms.*
2. *The microorganism must be isolated from a diseased organism and grown in pure culture.*
3. *The cultured microorganism should cause disease when introduced into a healthy organism.*
4. *The microorganism must be reisolated from the inoculated, diseased experimental host and identified as being identical to the original specific causative agent.*

I am not seeking any records disputing Koch's postulates nor any records that attempt to justify the alleged Tuberculosis disease using unscientific methods. I am only seeking records that prove causation using valid scientific methods including valid control groups.

My request includes any study/report matching the above description, **authored by anyone, anywhere.**

If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each one with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.

### Format:

Pdf documents sent to me via email; I do not wish for anything to be shipped to me.

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Notice that my request requires that all 4 Koch's postulates be satisfied. The links you provided me to not satisfy my request, which is why I think you didn't get my full request.

Thank you.



20 December 2021

Michael Speth  
By email: conzar@gmail.com

Dear Michael

Thank you for your email in relation to our letter of 16 December addressing your information request of 29 November. I can confirm that MPI passed on the full details of your request, and that we have provided all information that we hold in relation to *M. bovis* causing TB. As stated in our 16 December letter, the information we provided to you is publicly available but was provided in the interests of good will.

If the provided information does not meet your requirements, we unfortunately do not hold the information you have requested, and we cannot think of any other agency that would hold it, or whose functions would be more closely connected to it. We are therefore refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) because the information is not held.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review our response to your information request. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Berryman".

**Jennifer Berryman**

Senior Advisor, Business Services and Performance