



OIA16-0055

15 MAR 2016

Dear

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 18 February 2016 relating to an alleged "shipment photographed... at Gary Beckham's yard, Mangonui, Northland, [which] appears to be being prepared for export and do not appear to be legal." You requested any Intention to Export Indigenous Timber (ITE) notices relating to the above, or any ITE notices received from Gary Beckham or the four companies listed in your request in the last 4 weeks.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) holds no information (i.e. no ITE notices) relevant to your request. Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information does not exist.

Thank you for raising the information with us. MPI inspected the sawmill subsequent to you providing the photographs. At the time of inspection, sawn slabs were being processed into table tops. It should be noted that, whilst initial processing occurs at this yard, most of the final manufacturing process occurs at another yard where they are ultimately stored ahead of sale. That yard is also inspected by MPI.

We were not able to determine if the timber being processed during our inspection was the same as that in your undated photographs. There is no record that the timber in your photographs has been presented to a Forestry Officer for approval to export in the period covered by your request, and no additional information has been identified to suggest that the timber in question has been exported or that any further investigation is warranted at this time.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stuart Anderson
Director Spatial, Forestry & Land Management