



9(2)(a)



I refer to your email of 1 August 2023 to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Is there a way I can find out the number of farms/ farmers that are not meeting the regulations around winter grazing that the Government introduced?*
2. *Do we know how the farms/farmers are not meeting the regulations?*
3. *Is there a record of those that have been penalised for not meeting regulations?*
4. *Since it was introduced in 2022, is there a monthly record?*

On 17 August 2023, MPI transferred your request to the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as the request is more closely connected with the functions of MfE.

Regional Councils are responsible for assessing compliance, monitoring and enforcement activities associated with Intensive Winter Grazing (IWG) regulations. MfE works with Regional Councils to support them.

As part of regular reporting on IWG, MfE collects information about intensive winter grazing consenting activity and compliance in the five key regions where the winter grazing takes place. As a result, any information that we provide cannot be extrapolated nationwide.

The information held and released by the MfE does not provide the breadth and depth required to fully answer your questions. To obtain comprehensive answers for all your questions, MfE recommends that if you have not done so already, contact regional councils in New Zealand, who hold regionally specific regulatory data.

The Intensive Winter Grazing (IWG) regulations came into force on 1 November 2022. IWG regulations assess compliance associated with the grazing of livestock on an annual forage crop from the period of 1 May to 30 September 2023.

MfE provides updates to the Minister for the Environment about Intensive winter grazing consenting activity and compliance for the five key regions where the IWG takes place- Southland, Otago, Canterbury, Waikato and Horizons (Manawatū-Whanganui).

Formal collection and associated Ministerial reporting occurred weekly, starting 18 February 2023 and ending 12 June 2023 for the 2023 winter grazing season. At the time of writing, the most recent IWG consent number report for the 2023 winter period recorded 368 applications as at 12 June 2023, with 278 of these granted.

Specific Council figures are outlined below:

Southland	Otago	Manawatū-Whanganui	Waikato	Canterbury
Granted 13 out of 50 applications received	Granted 263 out of 287 applications received	Granted 0 out of 1 application received	Granted 0 out of 10 applications received	Granted 2 out of 20 applications received

As stated, Regional Councils are responsible for the compliance, monitoring and enforcement of the IWG regulations in their applicable region.

The five Regional Councils provided updates to MfE on these key indicators in June and July 2023.

	Southland		Otago		Manawatū-Whanganui		Waikato		Canterbury	
	June 2023	July 2023	June 2023	July 2023	June 2023	July 2023	June 2023	July 2023	June 2023	July 2023
Incidents linked to IWG	5	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	0
Enforcement action taken	5 abatement notices issued (1 roadside assessment, 4 aerial inspection).	All of June's 5 abatement notices lifted due to corrective actions. 1 Formal warning and 1 Infringement issued.	0	Complaints under investigation. No enforcement action taken.	0	0	0	0	0	0

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Sara Clarke
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