

21 December 2023

Extension of period to deal with request for access to records of Quantum Foods (Pty) Limited ("Quantum Foods")

1. We refer to the request for access to records in terms of the Promotion to Access to Information Act, 2000 ("**PAIA**"), which we received from Animal Law Reform South Africa ("**ALRSA**") on 11 December 2023 ("**your Request**").
2. Your Request is for a large number of records related to "*Quantum Foods' role in the egg supply chain*" for the period 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. In terms of paragraph 7 of your Request, the records requested by ALRSA include, but are not limited to, the following:

"internal policies regarding animal welfare and environmental matters, annual and sustainability reporting and asset and stock registers, compliance with relevant animal protection legislation, records related to charges, judgments and orders, records related to egg production and supply chain, industry association membership records and compliance with such association standards, requirements and certification, third party certification, animal welfare and environmental commitments and public statements made in relation to animal welfare and environmental matters."

3. As you are aware, Quantum Foods is ordinarily required to process requests for information within 30 days unless there are adequate reasons for an

extension of the period by a further 30-days as contemplated in section 57 of PAIA.

4. We write to notify you that Quantum Foods is exercising its right to extend the 30-day period to deal with your Request by a further period of 30 days. This is for the reasons elaborated on below. Accordingly, the deadline for a response from Quantum Foods to your Request will be 12 February 2024 (instead of 11 January 2024).

Reasons for the extension of the period to deal with your Request

5. A response to your Request is not possible within the original 30-day period for the following reasons:
 - 5.1 your Request relates to a large number of records and requires that we conduct an extensive search through Quantum Foods' records in order to respond. Compliance with the original period will unreasonably interfere with our day-to-day business activities as contemplated in section 57(1)(a) of PAIA. This is exacerbated by the unfortunate timing of your Request. We are running a skeleton staff as several of our employees are, or will soon be, on leave for the Christmas holidays.
 - 5.2 as contemplated in section 57(1)(c) of PAIA, in order to respond to your Request we will be required to consult with various divisions of Quantum Foods, including, but not limited to, Nulaid and Nova Feeds.
6. To the extent that certain records in your Request are held by third parties, we note that Quantum Foods is required to conduct the third-party notification process envisaged in sections 71 to 73 of PAIA. As you may be aware, in terms of this process, third parties are required to be given 21 days to indicate whether they consent to the disclosure of the relevant records held by them.

Conclusion

7. As mentioned in paragraph 4 above, Quantum Foods is extending the period to deal with your Request. This is for the reasons set out in paragraph 5 above.
8. Please note that if you are aggrieved, you are entitled to lodge:
 - 8.1 a written complaint to the Information Regulator against the extension in terms of section 77A of PAIA. The complaint must be lodged in writing within 180 days from the date of this letter;
 - 8.2 *alternatively*, a court application against the extension. In terms of section 78(2) of PAIA, such application must be made within 180 days from the date of this letter.

