

Animal Law Reform South Africa Outreach

From: Animal Law Reform South Africa Outreach
Sent: Tuesday, 28 May 2024 13:45
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [External] - RE: ALRSA_Unilever_PAIA_Request_13_12_2023

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	

Dear Information Officer

Thank you for your response.

As far as our request relates to records that are not in the possession of Unilever, we would like to remind you that you are required, in accordance with s55 of PAIA, to provide an affidavit noting the steps taken to locate the information and confirming, under oath, what you have stated in your email under reply. This applies to the information related to sourcing of products containing eggs in the South African supply chain.

Kindly furnish the affidavit by no later than **10 June 2024** given that we are currently preparing our public report in which we will rate Unilever relative to its transparency and stance on animal welfare and environmental sustainability, among other matters. The rating will be informed by your response to this correspondence, as well as the previous correspondence and records provided.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards

Outreach: External Liaison
Animal Law Reform South Africa
outreach@animallawreform.org



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 4:03 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [External] - RE: ALRSA_Unilever_PAIA_Request_13_12_2023

Hi again,

I have confirmed with our brand and procurement teams that the Real Hellmann's products in South Africa are imported from Europe, and all 100% cage-free. (Some South African retailers' websites state that the brand is from barn eggs. This is out of date, and we are requesting these to be taken down from the websites).

Best,
Unilever Press Office

From: Animal Law Reform South Africa Outreach <outreach@animallawreform.org>

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 11:44 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [External] - RE: ALRSA_Unilever_PAIA_Request_13_12_2023

Good day

I trust you are well.

Thank you for your response to our correspondence dated **28 March 2024**. We note your claim that the only Unilever product that contains eggs is the Hellman's brand.

We note from the website link provided previously, that "*All Hellmann's mayonnaise, dressings, and spreads **available in the U.S.**, excluding our Vegan Dressing and Spread (which does not contain eggs), have been made exclusively from cage-free eggs since January 2017*". The website however does not reference which items are sold in South Africa. As such, kindly confirm whether these Hellman's products containing eggs sold in South Africa also are sourced from cage-free egg suppliers.

Furthermore, in as far as our request relates to records that are not in the possession of Unilever, you are required in accordance with s55 of PAIA, to provide an affidavit noting the steps taken to locate the information. We hereby request that the requisite affidavit be provided.

Kindly respond to this correspondence by no later than **5 June 2024** given that we are currently preparing our public report in which we will rate Unilever relative to its transparency and stance on animal welfare and environmental sustainability, among other matters. The rating will be informed by your response to this correspondence, as well as the previous correspondence and records provided.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] March 28, 2024 5:46 PM
To: Animal Law Reform South Africa Outreach <outreach@animallawreform.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [External] - RE: ALRSA_Unilever_PAIA_Request_13_12_2023

Hello,

Thank you for your reply and we confirm the only Unilever brand sold in South Africa that includes egg products is the imported Hellman's and the relevant information is provided on the weblink we provided.

Best,
Unilever Press Office

From: Animal Law Reform South Africa Outreach <outreach@animallawreform.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [External] - RE: ALRSA_Unilever_PAIA_Request_13_12_2023

Good day

I trust you are well.

Thank you for your response to our request dated 13 December 2024 to Unilever South Africa (Pty) Ltd ("Unilever").

We note your assertion that "*Unilever does not source locally in South Africa, nor are they used in our South African production*". Kindly provide an affidavit attesting to this claim as required in terms of s 55 of PAIA. We also appreciate you providing us with information concerning Hellmann's. Please could you provide information in relation to other brands that contain eggs, or are we to assume that Hellmann's is the only brand that has made a cage-free commitment?

Given Unilever's commitment to sustainably sourced ingredients, including cage-free eggs, we hope that Unilever will engage openly and transparently with us.

Despite not sourcing eggs locally in South Africa, the sale of *egg related products* to South African consumers renders Unilever a role player in the egg supply chain in South Africa.

As such, we reiterate our request for access to information in terms of our PAIA request dated 13 December 2023. Unilever cannot claim to “[care about sustainability](#)”, but refuse to provide records to organisations such as ALRSA who seek to advance sustainability in the interests of consumers and the environment.

We hope that Unilever will adjust its approach so as to advance transparency and accountability in relation to the environment, noting the Supreme Court of Appeal’s remark that:

“Corporations operating within our borders, whether local or international, must be left in no doubt that in relation to the environment...there is no room for secrecy and that constitutional values will be enforced.”

We look forward to receiving a fully compliant and thorough response to our request in terms of PAIA forthwith. Should you fail to do so, we reserve our rights to exhaust the legal remedies available to us, including but not limited to, approaching the Information Regulator to lodge a complaint in respect of Unilever, and/or approaching the courts.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 4:32 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: [External] - RE: ALRSA_Unilever_PAIA_Request_13_12_2023

To whom it may concern,

Unilever does not source eggs locally in South Africa, nor are they used in our South African production.

Our global brand Hellmann’s has a page on its website about sustainably sourcing eggs, and its cage-free achievement. More information should you need is here: <https://www.hellmanns.com/us/en/we-care-about-sustainably-sourced-ingredients.html>

Best,
Unilever Press Office

From: Animal Law Reform South Africa Outreach <outreach@animallawreform.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 11:22 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: [External] - RE: ALRSA_Unilever_PAIA_Request_13_12_2023

Dear Information Officer

This email concerns the request for access to information in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000 ("PAIA") delivered to Unilever PLC's associated company, Unilever South Africa (Pty) Ltd ("Unilever") on behalf of Animal Law Reform South Africa on **13 December 2023**. In terms of our request, and subsequent extension granted, your response to our request was due by no later than **15 January 2024**.

We hereby notify you that your non-response to our request amounts to a refusal in terms of PAIA. Unilever will be rated accordingly in our forthcoming public report relating to corporate accountability in the egg supply chain.

You are hereby given a final opportunity to respond to our request by no later than **6 February 2024** given that we are currently preparing our public report.

Should you fail to do so, we reserve our rights to exhaust the legal remedies available to us, including but not limited to, approaching the Information Regulator to lodge a complaint in respect of Unilever, and/or approach the courts.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

[REDACTED]

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From: Animal Law Reform South Africa Outreach

Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 10:51 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: ALRSA_Unilever_PAIA_Request_13_12_2023

Dear Information Officer

I trust you are well.

We reach out to you once again to request access to information from Unilever PLC's associated company, Unilever South Africa (Pty) Ltd, in its role as a stakeholder in South Africa's egg supply chain.

Kindly find attached a request for access to information in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000, as well as a covering letter with more information in respect thereof.

We look forward to receiving your completed Google forms (see cover letter and attached PDF document entitled "ALRSA_PAIA_List_of_Requests" for more details), within 30 days of the date hereof (**i.e., by no later than 15 January 2024**). Furthermore, kindly find attached the required confirmation of appointment and authorisation to submit the aforementioned PAIA request on behalf of Animal Law Reform South Africa.

Kindly acknowledge receipt hereof.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

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