

10/02/2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ref: H20210057
[REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 5 January 2021 for:

You specifically requested:

"All records in the possession, custody or control of the Ministry of Health describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-1 virus as well as any of the other common cold associated coronavirus, directly from a sample taken from a diseased patient, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka vero cells; lung cells from a lung cancer patient).

Please note that I am using "isolation" in the every-day sense of the word: the act of separating a thing(s) from everything else. I am not requesting records where "isolation of SARS-COV-1 or any of the other common cold associated coronavirus" refers instead to:

- the culturing of something, or*
- the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), or*
- the sequencing of something.*

Please also note that my request is not limited to records that were authored by the Ministry of Health or that pertain to work done by the Ministry of Health. My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that the Ministry of Health has downloaded or printed.

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 record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it).

Peer-reviewed scientific literature is publicly available from databases such as PubMed or Scopus. Please note it is not possible to compile a conclusive list of the number of occasions information relevant to the scope of your request may have been downloaded, accessed or

printed to respond, and any information held would likely be incomplete. There is no obligation on the Ministry to create information in order to respond to a request. The Act only applies to information that is already held the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). Therefore, as the information you are seeking is not held by the Ministry, I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gill Hall', written in a cursive style.

Gill Hall
Group Manager
COVID-19 Science and Insights
COVID-19 Health System Response Directorate