



MP for Tāmaki Makaurau

Minister of Civil Defence

Minister for Whānau Ora

Minister for Youth

Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health)

Associate Minister of Tourism

By email: [REDACTED]

Ref:

[REDACTED]
H202007852

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the office of the Associate Minister of Health on 15 October 2020 for:

"All records in the possession, custody or control of the Associate Minister of Health Hon Peeni Henare describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, 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-2" refers instead to:

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

This office does not hold any information pertaining to your request. For this reason, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse your request.

Yours sincerely

A blue ink signature of Elly Amiri.

Elly Amiri
Senior Private Secretary
Office of Hon Peeni Henare