



23 APR 2021



Ref: PMO 2021-068



Official Information Act request relating to purification of SARS-COV-2

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 24 March 2021. You requested:

"All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern describing the purification of "SARS-COV-2" said to have caused disease in humans.

My request is not limited to records that were authored by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern or that pertain to work done at/by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. Rather, my request includes any record matching the above description."

I note that your request is seeking the same information as your previous request, which was recently transferred to the Ministry of Health. The Act does not require a response to stay with a specific Minister or agency where it is determined that a more appropriate Minister or agency is best placed to respond to the request. As the Ministry of Health hold scientific information relevant to your request, and is a primary source of expertise when it comes to health, I believe it is best placed to respond to your request, and identify where information was provided to this Office.

The Prime Minister receives information and advice, including in relation to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, from Ministers, her Chief Science Advisor, and Officials as well as a wide range of other sources. Although this Office does not hold the specific scientific information you are seeking, there is a large volume of publicly available evidence that the virus SARS-COV-2 that causes COVID-19 exists, and refer to my letter of 7 December 2020 which contains material identified by the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor.

Please note that repeat requests for the same information can be refused under section 18(h) of the Act, as frivolous and vexatious. If you wish to request new information, we would be happy to respond.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raj Nahna'.

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff