

On Wednesday, February 24th, 2021 at 10:15 PM, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Health Ministers,

I am writing to you on advice from the Australian Department of Health (the Department) to seek clarification on information requested in a Freedom of Information (FOI) request that was sent to the Department.

The Department's initial response on 24th August 2020 (attached: "Initial FOI 1937 Response"), stated: "To obtain the information you are seeking please direct your request to the various State and territory Departments of Health".

After further correspondence between the FOI author and the Department, a more formal response was given (attached: "FOI 1937"), yet the outcome remained the same.

I am therefore writing to you to on initial advice by the Department of Health to confirm whether you do hold the information requested in the original request to the Department, as shown in attachment "FOI 1937" and pasted again below:

"All records in the possession, custody or control of The Department of Health 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.*

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

I look forward to your response.

[REDACTED]



Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

Fw: MHW-H21-1039 - letter to [REDACTED]

Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 11:59 PM

To: Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>, "Christine.Massey@protonmail.com" <Christine.Massey@protonmail.com>

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

----- Original Message -----

On Wednesday, April 28th, 2021 at 6:23 PM, Health:Minister for Health <ministerforhealth@sa.gov.au> wrote:

Our ref: MHW-H21-1039

Please find attached a letter from the office of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

Kind regards


Office of Hon Stephen Wade MLC

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Level 9, Citi Centre Building, 11 Hindmarsh Square | GPO Box 2555 Adelaide SA 5001

T: (08) 8463 6270 | F: (08) 8463 6277 | E: ministerforhealth@sa.gov.au | W: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

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 Letter to [REDACTED].pdf
689K

MHW-H21-1039

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 24 February 2021, seeking access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (SA) (the FOI Act) regarding:

"All records in the possession, custody or control of The Department of Health 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.

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

These documents are not held by this agency. ■

The Office of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing is a separate agency to SA Health under the FOI Act, and is a separate agency for record keeping purposes. I am not able to advise if an agency within SA Health has the documents you are seeking.

However, you may consider making an application under the FOI Act, to SA Pathology.

Please note that there is a \$37.50 FOI application fee that must be paid to the agency that holds the documents at the time you lodge your application. Processing charges may also be applicable. The agency will advise you of these charges once it receives your application and begins processing it.

If you are the holder of a current concession card, or if you can satisfy the agency that the payment of the fee or charge would cause financial hardship, the agency must waive or remit (reduce or refund) the application fee.

Information on how to apply under the FOI Act in South Australia, including direct links to an application document or an online form, can be found at <https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/about+us/departement+for+health+and+wellbeing/freedom+of+information+departement+for+health+and+wellbeing>

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Klass', is written over the typed name.

Margaret Klass

Accredited FOI Officer

Office of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing

28 April 2021