

14 December 2021



## **Official Information Act Request: Poliovirus purification**

On 7 December 2021 you sent a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act) to ESR as follows:

*“All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of ESR describing the purification of any “poliovirus” (for example: via filtration, ultracentrifugation and chromatography), directly from a sample taken from a diseased human where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka Vero cells; fetal bovine serum).*

*Please note that I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to purify the suspected “virus” and instead:*

- *cultured an unpurified sample or other unpurified substance, and/or*
- *performed an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test) on all the RNA from a patient sample or from a cell culture, or on genetic material from any unpurified substance, and/or*
- *fabricated a “genome” by editing/assembling/aligning sequences detected in the total RNA from a patient sample or from a cell culture or from any unpurified substance, and/or*
- *produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things.*

*For further clarity, please note I am already aware that according to virus theory a “virus” requires host cells in order to replicate, and I am not requesting records describing the replication of a “virus” without host cells.*

*Further, I am not requesting records that describe a suspected “virus” floating in a vacuum; I am simply requesting records that describe its purification (separation from everything else in the patient sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other very small things).*

*Please also note that my request is not limited to records that were authored by ESR or that pertain to work done at/by ESR. Rather, my request includes any record matching the above description, for example (but not limited to): any published peer-reviewed study authored by anyone, anywhere, ever that has been downloaded or printed by ESR and relied on as evidence of a disease-causing “virus”.*

*Please note, I am requesting all records regardless if the records are publicly available or privately available.*

*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 one with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.”*

**Our response to your request:**

ESR does not hold any information related to the purification of poliovirus. ESR has performed PCR, cell culture and sequencing for poliovirus but we have never encountered a situation which requires the purification of poliovirus by filtration, ultracentrifugation, or chromatograph. We are therefore refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held.

**Your right to seek a review**

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Jill Vintiner

**Joint General Manager Health and Environment Group – Health  
ESR**