

19 November 2021



INFORMATION REQUEST – SARS-COV-2 Purification

We write in response to your email dated 9 November 2021 in which you requested the following information:

- **“All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of The Tauranga City Council describing the purification of any “COVID-19 virus” (aka “SARS-COV-2”, including any alleged “variants” i.e. “B.1.1.7”, “B.1.351”, “P.1”) (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).“**

We have considered your request in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (“**LGOIMA**”) and respond as follows:

Tauranga City Council (TCC) does not hold any reports describing the purification of the “SARS-COV-2” virus or its variants. TCC takes 24-hour composite samples of incoming wastewater and sends one litre samples from the inflow of our two wastewater treatment plants to the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) for analysis, who then test the sample and send their results to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, your request is refused under section 17(e) of LGOIMA *that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.*

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

We may publish this response on our website as your request may be of interest to others. All personal information will be removed and only the question and answers will be seen.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the writer.

Ngā mihi

Coral Hair

Coral Hair
Manager
Democracy Services