

Hello Official Information Officer,

I qualify as a person under Section 12 (1)(c) of the Official Information Act 1982 who is presently in New Zealand.

I am requesting records from the paper published by the University of Otago entitled:

*'Characterization of the First SARS-CoV-2 Isolates from Aotearoa New Zealand as Part of a Rapid Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic'*  
(DOI 10.3390/v14020366).

**Description of Request**

- What is the hypothesis for DOI 10.3390/v14020366?
- Was the hypothesis proven or disproven?

**Record Search**

I do not expect the University to search students' computers, labs' computers, or even researchers' computers. I expect the University to direct this request to the appropriate department who have experts in the field of virology & microbiology such as Miguel E. Quinones-Mateu who claimed to have isolated SARS-COV-2.



22 June 2022



**OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE PAPER  
'CHARACTERIZATION OF THE FIRST SARS-COV-2 ISOLATES FROM AOTEAROA  
NEW ZEALAND AS PART OF A RAPID RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC'**

I refer to your official information request dated 25 May 2022 for information regarding the paper recently published by Professor Quiñones-Mateu 'Characterization of the First SARS-CoV-2 Isolates from Aotearoa New Zealand as Part of a Rapid Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.'

We have decided to decline your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (Act), on the basis that the information requested does not exist.

The paper published by Professor Quiñones-Mateu and colleagues was a descriptive paper. Such papers do not typically use hypothesis testing. This means there was no hypothesis to prove or disprove.

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.

Yours sincerely

Kelsey Kennard

Official Information and Compliance Coordinator  
Office of the Registrar