

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Minister for Food Safety
Minister for Seniors

Associate Minister of Health
Associate Minister of Research, Science and Innovation



18 OCT 2022

Ref. AVOIA102

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 12 September 2022 for information relating to COVID-19. You specifically requested:

“All records in the possession, custody or control of the Dr Ayesha Verrall that scientifically proves using the scientific method the existence of SARS-COV-2 virus. The scientific method is a process used to prove or disprove hypotheses. My request requires the hypothesis to include the claim of existence of SARS-COV-2 particles. If the records do not have a hypothesis or do not have a hypothesis that claims the existence of SARS-COV-2, then these records are disqualified from my request.

I am requesting records that only use the scientific method and where the experiments have been repeated multiple times where the results were 100% the same. For any of the SARS-COV-2 Genome Sequences, multiple experiments must have been conducted and produced a 100% match for the SARS-COV-2 genome sequence the researchers found. Records that have not been repeated with 100% matches for the SARS-COV-2 genome are disqualified from my request.

A control experiment is an experiment that has exactly the same parameters of the experimental group sans the variable being tested. For cell culture experiments, the control group should have exactly the same composition sans the SARS-COV-2 viruses. Experiments that do not have a valid control as defined are disqualified from my request.

Please provide all records that scientifically prove the existence of SARS-COV-2 as defined in this request.

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.”

The information you have requested is already publicly available at the links provided below. As you are able to access this information yourself, I am refusing your request under section 18(d) of the OIA (the information is publicly available).

However, under section 13 I can advise that an internationally curated and open database contains sequences that are obtained from cases infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sars-cov-2/.

This is the record from the original deposition of the genome of the virus annotated with the functional genes encoded in its genome: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucore/NC_045512.

All genomes generated in New Zealand are submitted to an internationally curated database at <https://www.gisaid.org/>. They can be viewed on Nextstrain: https://nextstrain.org/ncov/gisaid/oceania?f_country=New%20Zealand.

Methods to extract and analyse viral genome data have been published and peer reviewed, the most used protocol for SARS-CoV-2 can be found here: <https://artic.network/ncov-2019>.

Detailed information on genome sequencing can be found on the genome sequencing Q&A on the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) website at the following link: www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/new-news-page/. The phylogenetic tree of the sequenced COVID-19 cases (including Delta variant) in New Zealand is available at: <https://nextstrain.org/community/narratives/ESR-NZ/GenomicsNarrativeSARSCoV2/aotearoa-border-incursions?n=14>. If you may want more information about genome sequencing, you can contact ESR at: www.esr.cri.nz/home/contact-form/.

You may also wish to access other online scientific studies for further information at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Minister for COVID-19 Response

AVOIA102 Response Letter

Tue, Oct 18, 2022 at 4:31 PM

To: "A Verrall (MIN)" <a.verrall@ministers.govt.nz>

Greetings Ayahia,

I am submitting a complaint as the information provided does not satisfy my request for scientific proof for the existence of SARS-COV-2.

The following is the information you provided me

- <https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sars-cov-2/> - appears to be a web site and is not scientific proof using the scientific method.
- https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/NC_045512 - appears to be letters in a computer and is not scientific proof using the scientific method.
- <https://www.gisaid.org/> - a web site that does not have any scientific proof using the scientific method.
- <https://nextstrain.org/ncov/gisaid/oceania/6m> - some graphs that are not scientific proof using the scientific method.
- <https://artic.network/ncov-2019> - a web site that has protocols but does not have scientific proof using the scientific method.
- <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/new-news-page> - ESR has admitted they do not hold any scientific proof for the existence of SARS-COV-2 (see attached), therefore ESR admits that the link you said is not scientific proof.
- <https://nextstrain.org/community/narratives/ESR-NZ/GenomicsNarrativesSARSCoV2/aotearoa-border-incursions?n=14> - link doesn't work - did you provide the correct information? Either case, since it is from ESR, ESR has already admitted it doesn't have scientific proof for the existence of SARS-COV-2.
- <https://www.esr.cri.nz/home/contact-form> - I have already contacted ESR and they have confirmed the scientific proof for SARS-COV-2 existence DOES NOT EXIST.
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> - I have requested specifically SCIENTIFIC PROOF using THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD. I have yet to find any such documents on pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. Since you provided a link, can you please provide me at least 1 document from that site that uses the scientific method to prove the existence of SARS-COV-2? Please see the definition of the scientific method which MUST include a hypothesis and well controlled experiments.

As my request has not been satisfied, I expect the following remedy from you:

1. Provide records that scientifically proves using the scientific method the existence of SARS-COV-2 as is defined in my original request

OR

2. Reject my OIA based on an 18(e) as the records clearly do not exist anywhere in the world.

Thank you for your time.

Regards

[Quoted text hidden]

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 2022-07-19-ESR-ProofOfExistence-Redacted.pdf
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