

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ref: H202102878

[REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) transferred to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 12 March 2021 for:

"All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet describing the purification of "SARS-COV-2" said to have caused disease in humans (via maceration, filtration and use of an ultracentrifuge; also referred to at times by some people as "isolation"), 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)."

The Ministry does not hold any information relating to your request. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry, and I have no reason to believe that this information is held by another agency subject to the Act. However, further information that may be of use has been previously provided to you below (refers H202100057 & H202100059):

- There are several examples of the virus being isolated and cultured in a laboratory setting. One example provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes the isolation and culture of SARS-CoV-2. This information and research on SARS-CoV-2 can be found at the following link: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/6/20-0516> article.
- A research paper, isolation and rapid sharing of the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) from the first patient diagnosed with COVID-19 in Australia, describes the first isolation and sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 in Australia. It is available at: www.mja.com.au/journal/2020/212/10/isolation-and-rapid-sharing-2019-novel-coronavirus-sarscov-2-first-patient

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.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

Nick Allan
Manager, OIA Services
Office of the Director-General