



## MP for Manukau East

Minister for Building and Construction

Minister of Customs

Minister for Ethnic Communities

Associate Minister of Education

Associate Minister of Health

20 October 2020

Ref: 20-317

## Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the office of the Associate Minister of Health on 15 October 2020 for:

*"All records in the possession, custody or control of the Associate Minister of Health Hon Jenny Salesa describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly from a sample taken from a diseased patient, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka vero cells; lung cells from a lung cancer patient).*

*Please note that I am using "isolation" in the every-day sense of the word: the act of separating a thing(s) from everything else. I am not requesting records where "isolation of SARS-COV-2" refers instead to:*

- the culturing of something, or*
- the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), or*
- the sequencing of something.*

*Please also note that my request is not limited to records that were authored by the Associate Minister of Health Hon Jenny Salesa or that pertain to work done by the Associate Minister of Health Hon Jenny Salesa. My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that the Associate Minister of Health Hon Jenny Salesa has downloaded or printed.*

*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 record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it)."*

This office does not hold any information pertaining to your request. For this reason, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse your request.

Yours sincerely



Hon Jenny Salesa  
Associate Minister of Health