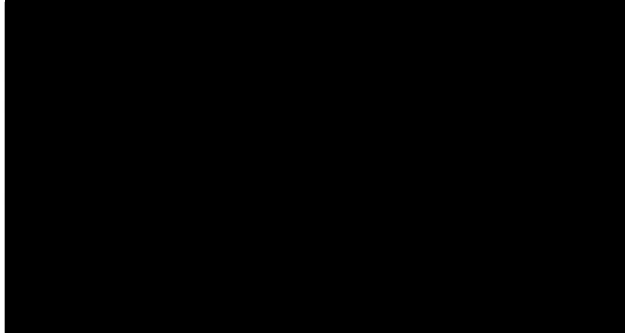


1 December 2020



I refer to your five separate Official Information Act (OIA) requests dated 18 November 2020, each with a number of sub requests. Pursuant to s18A(2) of the OIA these five requests are being treated as a single request, and the time required to respond to each sub request aggregated. This has resulted s18(f) OIA – the information cannot be made available without substantial collation – applying to each of these requests as they are deemed one large request.

**1. All contact tracing interview transcripts for those patients involved in the marine engineer cluster in Auckland, with identifying details removed.**

It is acknowledged while there is a public interest in being able to understand certain aspects of the response to the pandemic, there is an even greater interest to ensure public health actions are not undermined. In particular, by ensuring people feel comfortable sharing their personal information with public health units for the purposes of contact tracing. A likely consequence of making their private information public is that people will not be open and honest about their movements. Accordingly, this request is refused: to protect the privacy of natural persons - s9(2)(a); to protect information that a person is compelled to give under the authority of an enactment in order to prevent prejudice to the continuing supply of such information and to prevent damage to the public interest – s9(2)(ba); and to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health of members of the public – s 9(2)(c).

Information that is relevant to the public health response, such as where there is the possibility of exposure to others during the individual's infectious period, is made available publicly in a timely way to allow the public to act to protect themselves and others.

**2. All communications between ARPHS and the Ministry of Health regarding the marine engineer cluster.**

I am advised that collating this information would take in excess of five hours. Please advise if you are prepared to meet this cost of that collation. If not, this request is declined under s18(f) OIA – the information cannot be made available without substantial collation.

- 3. All communications between ARPHS and Wright's engineering regarding the marine engineer cluster.**

Again, these communications occurred within a statutory regime empowering public health units to undertake contact tracing. This request is refused to protect information that a person is compelled to give order to prevent prejudice to the continuing supply of such information and to prevent damage to the public interest – s9(2)(ba); and to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health of members of the public – s 9(2)(c).

- 4. All emails between the Auckland Regional Public Health Service and the Ministry of Health regarding the November quarantine cluster, from November 4, 2020, to November 18, 2020.**

I am advised that collating this information would take in excess of five hours. As the staff who would be required to undertake the collation are committed to supporting the on-going response to COVID-19, this request is declined under s18(f) OIA – the information cannot be made available without substantial collation.

- 5. All emails between the Auckland Regional Public Health Service and the management / owners of the 106 Vincent St apartment complex, from November 4, 2020, to November 18, 2020.**

Again, these communications occurred within a statutory regime empowering public health units to undertake contact tracing. This request is refused to protect information that a person is compelled to give order to prevent prejudice to the continuing supply of such information and to prevent damage to the public interest – s9(2)(ba); and to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health of members of the public – s 9(2)(c).

- 6. All emails between the Auckland Regional Public Health Service and the NZ Defence Force, from November 4, 2020, to November 18, 2020.**

I am advised that collating this information would take in excess of three hours. As the staff who would be required to undertake the collation are committed to supporting the on-going response to COVID-19, this request is declined under s18(f) OIA – the information cannot be made available without substantial collation.

- 7. The minutes of all meetings between the Auckland Regional Public Health Service and the NZ Defence Force, from November 4, 2020, to November 18, 2020.**

I am advised that collating this information would take in excess of three hours. As the staff who would be required to undertake the collation are committed to supporting the on-going response to COVID-19, this request is declined under s18(f) OIA – the information cannot be made available without substantial collation.

**8. Transcripts of the contact tracing interviews for cases A, B, C, D and E in the November quarantine cluster. I am willing for identifying details (names etc) to be redacted on privacy grounds.**

See response to request #1.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland District Health Boards website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
**Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)**

