



MP for Remutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of Health

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Ryan Potts

By email: fyi-request-12777-6fca04bf@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: CHOIA650

Dear Mr Potts

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 5 May 2020 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

“When was your office first briefed about modelling of the potential impacts of COVID-19 in New Zealand?”

I am advised that the former Minister of Health, Hon Dr David Clark had regular discussions with a number of officials regarding COVID-19, which will likely have included discussions about the potential impacts of the virus in New Zealand. It is not possible to identify when these discussions first included modelling.

A search was undertaken to determine when the office of the former Minister of Health was first formally briefed on modelling of the potential impacts of COVID-19 in New Zealand. The earliest date that has been identified is 11 March 2020.

I am unable to confirm whether 11 March 2020 was the first time the former Minister of Health was briefed on the draft modelling.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made in this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', representing Chris Hipkins.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Health