



2 July 2020

Hayden Marsh

By Email: [fyi-request-13081-8a465305@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13081-8a465305@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Reference: OIA-2019/20-0578

Dear Hayden,

**Official Information Act request relating to the alert tone used in COVID-19 announcements**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 16 June 2020. You requested:

*"...a mp3 or wav file of the COVID-19 sound effect played at the beginning of the adverts."*

As you will know, the alert tone you have identified is used to alert the public to key health and safety information related to COVID-19. I do not believe it would be appropriate to distribute this audio file for use by members of the public, as to do so would reduce the efficacy of the tone, or could be used in a way that is detrimental to public health and safety. Therefore, I have decided to withhold the requested information under section 9(2)(c), to protect the health or safety of members of the public.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

John Ombler  
Deputy Chief Executive,  
COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group