

21 September 2020

Paul Roberts

By email: [fyi-request-13372-b4b4c239@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13372-b4b4c239@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202006452

Dear Paul Roberts

**Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 24 August 2020, attached as Appendix One.

The Act only applies to information that is already held by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). There is no obligation on the Ministry to create information in order to respond to a request. The information you are seeking in this case is not held by the Ministry, I am therefore refusing parts one, two and three of your request under section 18(g) of the Act. Peer-reviewed scientific literature is publicly available from databases such as PubMed or Scopus.

In response to part four of your request the test referred to is Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT). NAAT includes both the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and transcription-mediated amplification (TMA) methods in use in New Zealand. Peer-reviewed scientific literature on NAAT is available from databases such as PubMed or Scopus.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Drew  
**Group Manager**  
**COVID-19 Science and Insights**  
**COVID-19 Health System Response Directorate**

## Appendix One:

"1) "However, Koch's postulates have been achieved globally to establish that the SARS-CoV-2 virus causes the diseases."

*Would you please provide a link to a single medical paper supporting this claim?*

2) "Animal studies (primate) show that inoculation of the virus into animals produces disease."

*Please provide a link to the paper for this study you have in mind?*

3) "Epidemiological evidence shows that the pathogen spreads from person to person with close contact and that spread can be halted by physical distancing".

*A theoretical mathematical model is not evidence, we have already seen with the Imperial College study by Neil Ferguson*

*[https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=qI3D3yd3lQC5yh8Xhr0\\_rIPK\\_D5LHTNBsGErYNMRwQ&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2eimperial%2eac%2euk%2fmedia%2fimperial-college%2fmedicine%2fsph%2fide%2fgida-fellowships%2fImperial-College-COVID19-NPI-modelling-16-03-2020%2epdf](https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=qI3D3yd3lQC5yh8Xhr0_rIPK_D5LHTNBsGErYNMRwQ&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2eimperial%2eac%2euk%2fmedia%2fimperial-college%2fmedicine%2fsph%2fide%2fgida-fellowships%2fImperial-College-COVID19-NPI-modelling-16-03-2020%2epdf) turned out to be grossly wrong with its projections of death and ICU bed requirements. Such a shame the worlds governments acted on the projections of this paper alone to justify the lockdowns early this year. An even better part of the movie script is when the author Mr Ferguson tested positive for Covid-19 himself then had to resign in disgrace when he was caught having an affair during his own countries lockdown.*

*[https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=qI3D3yd3lQC5yh8Xhr0\\_rIPK\\_D5LHTNBsGR6NIZMxw&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2enzherald%2eco%2enz%2fworld%2fnews%2farticle%2ecfm%3fc%5fid%3d%26objectid%3d12329829](https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=qI3D3yd3lQC5yh8Xhr0_rIPK_D5LHTNBsGR6NIZMxw&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2enzherald%2eco%2enz%2fworld%2fnews%2farticle%2ecfm%3fc%5fid%3d%26objectid%3d12329829)*

*Or are you referencing real scientific epidemiological studies such as the preliminary serology studies that shows the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in the population is much more wide spread than expected, so social distancing has no efficacy due to an established herd immunity?*

*[https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=qI3D3yd3lQC5yh8Xhr0\\_rIPK\\_D5LHTNBsGJ\\_YtVOIQ&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2emedrxiv%2eorg%2fcontent%2f10%2e1101%2f2020%2e04%2e14%2e20062463v2](https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=qI3D3yd3lQC5yh8Xhr0_rIPK_D5LHTNBsGJ_YtVOIQ&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2emedrxiv%2eorg%2fcontent%2f10%2e1101%2f2020%2e04%2e14%2e20062463v2)*

4) "In New Zealand we have a highly specific test that has detected cases whose clinical syndrome matches those described in the international literature".

*What test is that, please provides details and references?"*