

Paul Roberts

By email: fyi-request-13586-6b295770@requests.fyi.org.nz  
Ref: H202006461

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 for:

*“Announced by Prime Minister at 3pm 24th August 2020, the mandatory wearing of a mask on public transport.*

- 1) Would you please provide all evidence on the efficacy of mandatory mask wearing?*
- 2) Provide all documentation surrounding the discussion leading to this mandate?*
- 3) Was all the medical literature that shows wearing masks have no effect on viral transmission summarised here*

*<https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=4LfD34V3XK5wYiqFN5cckk7XBRtv9NPb-NebM7QxVnw&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2esott%2enet%2farticle%2f434796-The-Science-is-Conclusive-Masks-and-Respirators-do-NOT-Prevent-Transmission-of-Viruses-taken-into-consideration?>*

- 4) Have the officials involved in this decision, seen how masks don't prevent transmission as they are designed to exhale the gases and NOT trap them which can be clearly seen and reproduced with a simple test as seen in video like*

*<https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=4LfD34V3XK5wYiqFN5cckk7XBRtv9NPb-NbSf7V9enw&u=https%3a%2f%2fyoutu%2ebe%2fSrPCgh4UkAU> and <https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=4LfD34V3XK5wYiqFN5cckk7XBRtv9NPb-NePNul4NzQ&u=https%3a%2f%2fyoutu%2ebe%2fzJ6k1RHE4QA>”*

Please be advised that the information requested is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, as it is under active consideration. The release of this information at this time would be likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest in effective government would not be served.

You may be interested to know that some information relating to face mask use has been proactively released as part of the Government's health response to COVID-19. This information can be found publicly available at the following address:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/legislation-and-key-documents/proactive-release/health-response/>.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Allan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nick Allan  
**Manager, OIA Services**  
**Office of the Director-General**