

13 October 2020

Mathew Hooton

By email: fyi-request-13618-7531222d@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202006665

Dear Mathew Hooton

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 31 August 2020 for:

"Under the OIA, I request all advice given by the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group, on or between 1 August 2020 and 1 September 2020, on the desirability or otherwise of testing asymptomatic people for Covid-19 ."

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has been unable to identify any documents within scope of your request. The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has not provided any specific advice to the Ministry on the testing of asymptomatic individuals for COVID-19.

However, we have identified two documents that may be of interest to you. These documents are itemised in Appendix One and copies are attached to this letter. The documents consist of advice by members of TAG on the testing of asymptomatic individuals. Please note, these documents do not officially represent the opinions of TAG.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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's website.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Drew
Group Manager, Science and Insights
Covid-19 Health System Response

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	5 August 2020	Testing frequency of asymptomatic border workers, and testing of incoming passengers on arrival	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and Officials.
2	20 August 2020	Day 12 PCR testing of close contacts	Released in full.