

7 December 2020

T Baker

By email: fyi-request-14212-fb3b105f@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202008505

Dear T Baker

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 27 November 2020 for:

“OIA - The Ministry of Health published COVID-19 modeling reports (<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-modelling-and-other-commissioned-reports>) on 31 March 2020.

Please advise:

- What COVID-19 modeling reports have been commissioned by the Ministry of Health since 1 April 2020.*
- What COVID-19 modeling reports have been authored by the Ministry of Health since 1 April 2020.*
- What unsolicited requests to provide new or revised COVID-19 modeling reports has the Ministry of Health received from New Zealand based COVID-19 modelers, including from Prof. Michael Baker (University of Otago) and Prof. Shaun Hendy (University of Auckland).*
- What COVID-19 modeling reports have been presented to Cabinet since 1 April 2020.*
- What COVID-19 modeling report(s) is being used to inform the Equity and Wellbeing principles of the New Zealand Elimination Strategy.*
- What COVID-19 modeling report(s) is being used to inform the New Zealand COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy.”*

The modelling used by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) was provided initially by researchers from the University of Otago and this material is published on the Ministry’s website at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-modelling-and-other-commissioned-reports>. The models use various assumptions about the virus which are tabulated in the University of Otago publications.

These modelling reports were commissioned by the Ministry to help us understand the health outcomes and impacts on New Zealanders of COVID-19 and to inform the early response strategy. The models were revised based on feedback from peer reviewers, the Ministry’s Chief Science Advisor and public health officials.

Modelling has also been performed by Te Punaha Matatini (TPM) – a group of researchers led by Professor Shaun Hendy at the University of Auckland. Their publications are available on their website: <https://www.tepunahamatatini.ac.nz/>. The modelling team at TPM have also regularly provided their reports to the Office of the Prime Minister and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC).

Please note the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has taken over the commissioning of modelling work and reports. Any vaccination modelling in the months ahead will be commissioned by MBIE via DPMC, not by the Ministry of Health.

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. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Yours sincerely



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COVID-19 Health System Response