

Virginia Crawford

By email: fyi-request-14341-1a7c6327@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202009431

Dear Virginia Crawford

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 11 December 2020 for:

"I understand that the cycle threshold referred to in FYI

https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=mLDe39D1glizcrOjA_T_T9odqk9_ppViWJbuOyU6w&u=https%3a%2f%2ffyi%2eorg%2enz%2frequest%2f14173-amplification-factor-being-used-when-determining-test-results-for-the-covid-19-test-kits

is 40. Can you confirm that this value (40) is used in processing ALL tests done in New Zealand?

Could you explain why such a high value is being used?"

I can confirm that PCR assays for all COVID-19 tests run for 40 cycles in IANZ accredited New Zealand laboratories. This is stipulated by the manufacturer instructions who have performed extensive validation and verification of their assays.

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 of Health website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kelvin Watson
Group Manager COVID-19 Immunisation, Testing and Supply
COVID-19 Health System Response Directorate

