



OIA21-0201

Scott
fyi-request-14577-6c5dffa7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Scott

Thank you for your request for documents as transferred by the Ministry of Health (MOH) on 19 February 2021 in accordance with section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

"I am writing to request copies of all documents collated within the Science and Technical Advisory Knowledge Repository (the repository referred to on page six of this document: <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/covid19-testing-plan-26jan2021.pdf>)."

On 11 February 2021, you refined your request for information to the following:

"Copies of all documents collated within the Science and Technical Advisory Knowledge Repository dated March 2020."

The Science and Technical Advisory Knowledge Repository is an MOH internal resource. MOH has identified and advised the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) of the following documents within the scope of your request:

- *Appendix 1: 'Hong Kong tests more dogs for COVID-19 virus (20 March 2020) 1.pdf'*
 - *(original MPI file name: 20200220 MPI BSI IR004-20 .pdf)*
- *Appendix 2: 'Can COVID-19 infect domestic animals (5 March 2020) 1.pdf'*
 - *(original MPI file name: 20200305 MPI BSI IR003-20.pdf)*

There is no evidence that domestic animals (pets or livestock) play an epidemiological role in the spread of COVID-19 and routine testing of animals for COVID-19 is not justified.

International advice is that, as a precautionary measure, people sick with COVID-19 should avoid contact with pets and other animals, as they would with people.

Please refer to the MPI website for the latest guidance regarding animals and COVID 19.
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/covid-19-information-and-advice/covid-19-and-animal-welfare/covid-19-and-animal-welfare-in-alert-level-3/>

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with MPI at

Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Leske', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Samuel Leske
Director, Intel & Biosecurity Support Services