

18 March 2021

Felix Lee

By email: fyi-request-14797-b2dc1394@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Felix Lee

Official Information Act Request: Cost of COVID-19 whole genome sequencing

On 1 March 2021 you sent a request under the Official Information Act 1982 to ESR as follows:

“Can you please tell me how much it costs to run a whole genome sequencing on a COVID sample? Please let me know the costs for routine weekly testing and for urgent testing.

If there are components to the cost that can't be easily quantified, I would still appreciate some info on the parts you can quantify (eg consumable costs, staff costs, etc)

If you can't give exact figures for any reason a rough estimate will also be appreciated.”

Our response to your request:

The information you have requested is commercially sensitive. We are therefore withholding all information related to this request under section 9(2)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 as withholding the information is necessary to enable ESR to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

Your right to seek a review

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Jill Vintiner

**Joint General Manager Health and Environment Group - Health
ESR**