

John Jacobsen

By email: fyi-request-15084-f46462c2@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202103899

Dear John Jacobsen

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 6 April 2021 for:

*“(i) a copy of all information provided by the Ministry of Health to the Stuff journalist Henry Cooke since 1 March 2021; and
(ii) a copy of all internal communications relating to the Ministry's processing of OIA requests received by the Ministry from Stuff journalist Henry Cooke since 1 January 2021; and
(iii) a copy of all communications between the Ministry of Health and the Minister of Health and people working in the Minister of Health's office about any OIA requests the Ministry of Health received from Stuff journalist Henry Cooke since 1 January 2021.”*

The Ministry has interpreted your request as seeking information provided by the Ministry to Henry Cooke since 1 March 2021 (part i), all internal communications relating to the Ministry's processing of requests provided to Henry Cooke between 1 January and 6 April 2021 (part ii) and all communications between the Ministry, Minister of Health and officials in the office of the Minister of Health regarding requests provided to Henry Cooke between 1 January and 6 April 2021 (part iii).

Please refer to Document 1 for information that has been identified within scope of part (i) of your request, and Document 2 for information in response to parts (ii) and (iii) of your request. Please note that attachments to correspondence have not been included in Document 2 as they are captured in Document 1 where relevant. The table overleaf lists the specific grounds of the Act under which I have decided to withhold information.

Please note that in the Ministry's 31 March 2021 response to Henry Cooke, an administrative error was made and whilst preparing this material for release, comments and feedback were inadvertently removed on two of the documents sent. Additionally, a further document that fell within the scope of the request was overlooked. Henry Cooke received an updated information release on 11 May 2021 that corrected this oversight. This information is included in this release to you as Document 3.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kiri Richards".

Kiri Richards
**Acting Deputy Director-General
Mental Health and Addiction**

Appendix One: List of documents for release

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	1 April 2021	Information provided to Henry Cooke on 31 March 2021	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
2	February – March 2021	Correspondence between Ministry officials and with the office of the Minister of Health regarding Henry Cooke's request for the period 1 January to 6 April 2021	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons. Information deemed outside the scope of your request has been excluded.
3	11 May 2021	Updated information provided to Henry Cooke	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.