

2 June 2021

C A

**By email:** [fyi-request-15541-199f525d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15541-199f525d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear C A

**Official Information Act Request: Current cycle threshold value used to perform the PCR test**

On 24 May 2021 you sent a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 to ESR as follows:

- "1. What is the current Cycle Threshold value used to perform the PCR test for COVID19*
- 2. Are you considering changing the Cycle Threshold?*
- 3. Where is the best place to find out when any future changes to the Cycle Threshold occur in New Zealand, is there an easier way to find this out than making an OIA each week?*

*(To be clear, I am anticipating the number of cycles to be lowered as other countries have done as they have rolled out vaccinations which will have an effect on the data collection of immunity levels after vaccinating)."*

**Our response to your request:**

1. 40.
2. No.
3. We don't have an answer to where you can find out changes to the cycle threshold. It is not necessary to enquire with ESR every week as we have no intention of changing our cycle threshold value cut-offs.

**Your right to seek a review**

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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**