

13. The final version of the statement (attached and [link here](#)) was released this evening, jointly with Australia, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom. s6(b)(i)

14. We will revert tomorrow with further insights as a contribution to the national review of the report and its findings.

ENDS

From:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 31 March 2021 11:53 am

To: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz> GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER)

<Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office)

<Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet)

<madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet)

<Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>;

RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz> O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER)

<Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE, Jessica

(NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

Hi Kathryn

The PM has seen the approach/next steps following the release of the report. s9(2)(g)(i)

I have provided her office with the holding media lines below. But, can some thought be given to a 'next-stage' set of lines that the PM could use when asked in the interim before the formal advice arrives.

Thanks

Guergana

Guergana Guermanoff

Foreign Policy Advisor
 Policy Advisory Group
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)

E guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz



**DEPARTMENT OF THE
 PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**
 TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

From:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 31 March 2021 4:00 pm

To: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; ...GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Comment on NZ's decision to not join the joint statement on WHO-convened COVID study - response today please

Hi team, we've got lines already prepared, but just checking if there has been any updates to them following the release of the report/statement?

**Heath Fisher**

Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP
 Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate Minister for
 Māori Development

M: s9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand
 [Seemail Restricted]

From: Alex Masters

Sent: Wednesday, 31 March 2021 3:42 PM

To: Heath Fisher <Heath.Fisher@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Comment on NZ's decision to not join the joint statement on WHO-convened COVID study

Heey - can I please get some advice.

Thanks!

Alex

From: Glasgow, Will [<mailto:will.glasgow@theaustralian.com.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 March 2021 3:32 PM
To: Alex Masters <Alexandra.Masters@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Comment on NZ's decision to not join the joint statement on WHO-convened COVID study

Hello Alexandra,

I'm a journalist at The Australian. I'm writing a story with a colleague after the release of the WHO-convened Global Study of Origins.

I would like a comment about the NZ government's decision to not join 14 countries including Australia, America, Japan, Denmark, South Korea, the United Kingdom and Canada in a joint statement on the WHO-Convened COVID-19 Origins Study.

Why did the NZ government not join the statement?

And what is the NZ government's response to the report?

Would you be able to please send a response through before close of business today.

Thank you,

Will

--

WILL GLASGOW

CHINA CORRESPONDENT

T s9(2)(a)

E will.glasgow@theaustralian.com.au **W** theaustralian.com.au

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From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 31 March 2021 4:12 pm
To:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>; MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>;GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; ASHFORD, Lucy (NAD) <Lucy.Ashford@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Comment on NZ's decision to not join the joint statement on WHO-convened COVID study - response today please

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Heath,

No change to our agreed lines at this point as below – they are fit for purpose for the questions asked by the journalist.

FYI - we are working with MoH on the next iteration of media points with the aim to get them out over next few days.

Kathryn

Reactive media points for Ministers on the COVID-19 origins mission report (also provided to Ministers Little and Hipkins via Ministry of Health):

- *[If asked about the China mission report]* We are pleased that the report has now been released. Our technical experts are currently analysing the report.
- *[If asked about the US joint statement or a possible New Zealand statement]* This is a scientific report and we want to make sure we understand the science before making any comment. We will wait until our experts have finished analysing the report – s9(2)(g)(i)

From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 31 March 2021 6:19 pm

To:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER)

<Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office)

<Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet)

<madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet)

<Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>;

RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER)

<Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE, Jessica (NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Guergana,

We are working on the next iteration of media points to send through asap tomorrow.

We are also working with MoH to test when is the earliest we may be able to s9(2)(g)(i)

– will update you on this

tomorrow.

Thanks,

Kathryn

From:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 31 March 2021 6:19 pm
To: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
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Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

Thank you! Look forward to the update

Guergana Guermanoff

Foreign Policy Advisor
Policy Advisory Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)

E guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz



**DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

From: GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 1 April 2021 8:40 am

To: GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; CPCD <DM-CPCD@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; ADDIS ABABA <DM-AUE@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; APECPOL <APECPOL@mfat.govt.nz>; ARD <DM-ARD@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; BANGKOK <BKK@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>; BRIDGETOWN <BRG@mfat.govt.nz>; BRUSSELS <BRU@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; CCD <DM-CCD@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS APEC NZ <DSAPECNZ@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS TEG <DM-DSTEG@mfat.govt.nz>; ECO <DM-ECO@mfat.govt.nz>; ENV <DM-ENV@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; JAKARTA <JAK@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; MEXICO <MEX@mfat.govt.nz>; MOSCOW <MOS@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; NEW YORK <NYK@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; PARIS <PAR@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; ROME <ROM@mfat.govt.nz>; SEA <DM-SEA@mfat.govt.nz>; STOCKHOLM <SKM@mfat.govt.nz>; SUVA <SVA@mfat.govt.nz>; ND <TND@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; VIENNA <VNA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.Health Ministry (Seemail) <tra_e@health.govt.nz>; FM.P/S Health (Seemail) <FMPSHealth@mfat.net.nz>; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM DPMC (FPA) (Seemail) <DPMCFPA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.MPI (Seemail) <mfat.messages@mpi.govt.nz> COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz;s6(a) FM.Treasury (Seemail) <merlin@treasury.govt.nz>; FM.MBIE Formal Messages (Seemail) <cables@mbie.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION: s6(b)(i)

[RESTRICTED]

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

MoH: Megan McCoy, Mikey Smyth, Emma Fisher
 MBIE: Michael Contaldo, Simon Rae, Clinton Watson

RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY

Following the release of the joint expert group's report into the origins of SARS-CoV-2 s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

HOHENGA – ACTION

For information.

PŪRONGO – REPORT

POLI-258-408

s6(b)(i) of the joint expert group's report into the origins of SARS-CoV-2 since its release on 28 March. This has been through public statements, such as statements issued yesterday by the United States (GVA's 30 March FM refers) and the European Union (attached).

s6(b)(i)

Understanding the origins of the virus

4. s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

5. The US-led and EU statements s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i) Some of this relates to the expert group having "lacked access to complete, original data and samples". This is covered in more detail below.

6. s6(b)(i)

[s9(2)(g)(i)]

Data issues

s6(b)(i)

10. The expert team asked to see raw data from possible early cases s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

12. Related to the data issues outlined above, s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

The laboratory incident hypothesis

14. s6(b)(i)

15. s6(b)(i)

WHO DG Tedros said in his briefing to Member States that the laboratory incident aspect of the investigation was undercooked, while China argued that the conclusions are science-based and should be respected.

Cold-chain hypothesis

s6(b)(i)

Phase II studies

s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

20. We look forward to learning about New Zealand's conclusions on the science in the expert group report.
ENDS



1 April 2021

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For information by

8 April 2021

Weekly Report – 1 April 2021

BRIEFING Overview Submission

PURPOSE This is a weekly product to update you on current and emerging international events, negotiations, and political developments. It includes a list of forthcoming Cabinet papers.

Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs	For information by	9 April 2021
Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control	For information by	9 April 2021

Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	MOBILE PHONE
Amy Laurenson	Chief of Staff	Office of the Chief Executive	s9(2)(a)

Amy Laurenson
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Tūtohu – Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Note the contents of this report. | Yes / No |
| 2 | Refer a copy of this submission to: | Yes / No |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs • Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control | |

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date / /

World Health Organisation: COVID origins report

27. An embargoed version of the report of the WHO report into the origins of COVID-19 (Global Study of Origins of SARS CoV 2) was made available to Member States late on 29 March. The WHO held a briefing on 30 March with scientists from the expert group present to take questions from Member States. The report is now public and attracting media attention. **The US released its joint statement on 30 March, in the company of 13 other countries. New Zealand did not join, given our need to conduct our own independent national analysis, which was not achievable within the short deadline on the US' statement.**
28. **The report finds that introduction of the virus through an intermediate (animal) host is a “likely to very likely” pathway for it having crossed into the human population;** direct (host animal to human) zoonotic spill over is a “possible-to-likely” pathway; the “introduction through cold/food chain products” is a “possible” pathway; introduction through a “laboratory incident” was considered an “extremely unlikely pathway”. These findings will be scrutinised closely by Member States. Officials are analysing the report – which runs to 123 pages plus annexes – and will provide advice to Ministers, including on substantive public comment.

From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 1 April 2021 4:02 pm

POLI-258-408

To:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) <Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE, Jessica (NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

[RESTRICTED]

Afternoon both,

Please see updated **media points** below. MoH will also provide these to Ministers Little and Hipkins today. There has been media interest today including this article: FYI - Reuters article [New Zealand defends absence from joint statement on WHO coronavirus report | Nasdaq](#)

If asked about New Zealand's position on the report / if we will be providing a statement on the report

- This is an important report, and a key first step in the work to understand the origins of COVID-19 and its introduction to the human population.

s9(2)(g)(i)

- Our technical experts, who have also been fully engaged with the wider COVID response, are currently analysing the report and working as quickly as they can. This is a scientific report and we want to make sure we understand the science before making any comment.
- s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

s9(2)(g)(i)

In terms of timing on a high level statement for the PM we will be meeting together with MoH and MPI next Thursday the 8th of April in the afternoon to discuss agency findings. This is the earliest experts were able to come together. We will then draft a high level statement for the PM to get to you on Friday 9th April, along with updated media lines.

Thanks,
Kathryn

From:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 1 April 2021 4:15 pm
To: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) <Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE, Jessica (NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

Thanks Kathryn.

Have a good Easter break!

Guergana

Guergana Guermanoff

Foreign Policy Advisor
 Policy Advisory Group
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)
 E guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz



**DEPARTMENT OF THE
 PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**
 TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

From: s6(a)
Sent: Thursday, 1 April 2021 4:11 pm
To: GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; CPCD <DM-CPCD@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; ADDIS ABABA <DM-AUE@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; APEC POL <APECPOL@mfat.govt.nz>; ARD <DM-ARD@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; BANGKOK <BKK@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN

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Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION:s6 a)

[RESTRICTED]

s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

From: BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>**Sent:** Friday, 2 April 2021 10:29 PM**To:** GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>**Cc:** AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; CPCD <DM-CPCD@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR<DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DSAAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING<BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO<TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; ADDIS ABABA <DM-AUE@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA<ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; APECPOL <APECPOL@mfat.govt.nz>; ARD <DM-ARD@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <[\[AUS@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:AUS@mfat.govt.nz\)>; BANGKOK <\[BKK@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:BKK@mfat.govt.nz\)>; BEIJING <\[BEI@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:BEI@mfat.govt.nz\)>; BERLIN](mailto:DM-</div>
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[RESTRICTED]

RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY

s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

HOHENGA - ACTION

For information.

ATTACHMENTS –

Annexed to this report is the text of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) spokesperson's remarks on this topic.

PŪRONGO – REPORT

s6(a)

Views of Chinese experts

4. China's lead official on the WHO inquiry, Liang Wannian, asserted on 31 March that the investigators "visited all the places, met all the people, studied all the facilities and read all the documents, as they had wished." Liang also rejected complaints "that the publication of the report had been repeatedly delayed." China CDC's Chief epidemiologist Zeng Guang s9(2)(g)(i) the US-coordinated statement on the WHO joint report s6(a)

5. China has sought to defend not making raw data available, saying that to do so would breach local privacy laws. Liang Wannian has said that the raw data was showed to WHO experts "one by one", with experts able to discuss and adjust the data analysis methods before forming conclusions. s9(2)(g)(i)

Official response from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

6. MOFA's spokesperson Hua Chunying on Wednesday 31 March gave a s9(2)(g) response to criticisms emerging from the report, noting that:

China has always been a supporter for global scientific research on the source of the virus and its transmission routes ... The Chinese side offered necessary facilitation for the team's work, fully demonstrating its openness, transparency and responsible attitude.

...To politicize this issue will only severely hinder global cooperation in the study of origins, jeopardize anti-pandemic cooperation, and cost more lives. It would run counter to the international community's aspiration for solidarity against the virus.

Study of origins is also a global mission that should be conducted in multiple countries and localities. We believe the joint WHO-China study will effectively stimulate global cooperation in origin-tracing.

s6(a)

11. On next steps and possible “phase two studies”, Hua said this was a matter for scientists to decide.

State media

12. Chinese State media s9(2)(g)(i) state tabloid *Global Times* [criticising](#) DG Tedros's comments as bowing to political pressure to “appease” Washington, which had “long concluded” that the Wuhan lab was the source.

13. State media has s9(2)(g)(i) that the virus originated outside of China, citing “an increasing amount of early data” that COVID outbreaks in other countries began earlier than reported.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

TĀKAPU - COMMENT

16. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

MUTU - ENDS

[Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on March 31, 2021](#)

Q3 Bloomberg: WHO's Director General has said the virus probe didn't adequately analyze the possibility of a lab accident before deciding that it's most likely the pathogen spread from bats to humans via another animal. In a briefing to member countries yesterday he said he is ready to deploy additional missions involving specialist experts. Does the foreign ministry have a comment on this?

Hua Chunying: On your first question, the Chinese side has made clear its position on the origin-tracing study report released by WHO. China has taken note of the report released by WHO. We commend the Chinese and international experts who have taken part in this joint study for their commitment to science, tireless industry and professionalism.

China has always been a supporter for global scientific research on the source of the virus and its transmission routes. We co-sponsored the WHA resolution on COVID-19 and support WHO-led cooperation on zoonotic source research among member states. Despite the daunting task of domestic prevention and control, China twice invited WHO experts in for study of origins. The Chinese side offered necessary facilitation for the team's work, fully demonstrating its openness, transparency and responsible attitude.

Study of origins is a matter of science, which should be jointly conducted by scientists all over the world. To politicize this issue will only severely hinder global cooperation in study of origins, jeopardize anti-pandemic cooperation, and cost more lives. It would run counter to the international community's aspiration for solidarity against the virus.

Study of origins is also a global mission that should be conducted in multiple countries and localities. We believe the joint WHO-China study will effectively stimulate global cooperation in origin-tracing.

As to your remarks that Director-General Tedros said the possibility of lab leak cannot be completely ruled out and they need further study, I want to say that in the China-WHO COVID-19 origin-tracing joint study, experts of the joint mission made field trips to institutions including the Hubei Provincial Center for Disease Control, the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and visited biosafety laboratories and had in-depth and candid exchanges with experts there. Through these field trips and in-depth visits, members of the mission unanimously agreed that the allegation of lab leaking is highly unlikely, and this is an important scientific conclusion made clear in the joint study report released this time.

I want to stress that China is conducting joint scientific research on origin-tracing with the WHO at the request of the latter. All parties should respect science and the opinion and conclusion of scientists. The WHO, in particular, should set a good example in this regard.

As for the question of further research, I think you may also note that in the video press conference of the WHO mission, the experts said that there has always been speculation about lab leak, but after earnest study in China, no suspicious signs have been found. They took a detailed look at the management of the laboratory, its working practices and recent virus research, and concluded that a "lab leak" was "extremely unlikely". They added that work could be done with laboratories around the world if there is further evidence that the hypothesis needs to be reassessed.

As I said yesterday, there is always a question mark over lab leak. The expert team had an in-depth study in Wuhan, and we also know there are many reports of early outbreaks various many places around the world. In addition to Fort Detrick, certain country has more than 200 biological bases around the world. So I think, if necessary, scientists should be allowed to work in a scientific spirit with relevant laboratories around the world. We hope that other relevant countries will cooperate closely with WHO experts in a scientific, open, transparent and responsible manner, as China has done. We believe this serves the interest of the world. Because everyone wants answers so that we can better respond to similar public health crises in the future.

Q5 Kyodo News Agency: A follow-up on the WHO report. Yesterday 14 countries including the US released a statement expressing their concern and raising questions over the report of the WHO-China joint study. Do you have a comment?

Hua Chunying: We repeated many times that the study of origins is a scientific matter that should be conducted jointly by scientists all over the globe and should not be politicized. This is a consensus of the overwhelming majority of countries in the world. The US assembled a handful of countries and released this so-called statement, openly questioning and negating the joint report of the joint WHO-China study. This is solid evidence of their disregard for science and political manipulation of study of origins. The US has been working on this, even before the report came out, but with little support. It is deeply immoral to politicize study of origins in this way. Such unpopular move will only hamper global cooperation in tracing the origins, jeopardize international anti-pandemic cooperation, and cost more lives. It runs counter to the international community's aspiration for solidarity against the virus. This is crystal clear to the overwhelming majority of countries in the world. Such attempts will not succeed. Relevant countries should ask themselves: how did you do in the fight against COVID-19 and what have you done for global anti-epidemic cooperation?

Q6 AFP: I have a follow-up question on the comments by the WHO chief, who called yesterday for another investigation into the Wuhan Institute of Virology. So will China open a new WHO investigation into the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Hua Chunying: I think your quote may not be accurate. According to the reports on the press briefing of the joint mission, the expert group said that there has been suspicion of a lab leak but with earnest research, the experts found no suspicious signs. The experts had candid and in-depth discussion with relevant personnel on the Chinese side and they learned in detail the management practice, working protocols and recent virology research of relevant labs. They think it is extremely unlikely that the virus is leaked from the lab. If there is further evidence that require necessary re-assessment of this hypothesis, they will carry out the work on relevant laboratories across the world.

That is why I said the expert panel believes that it is extremely unlikely that the virus escaped from the lab in Wuhan and this possibility is basically ruled out. But given that origin-tracing is a complex issue and that conclusions should be reached by scientists on the basis of facts, the experts said that if there is further evidence that requires necessary re-assessment of this hypothesis, they will carry out the work on relevant laboratories across the world. Therefore, we hope relevant countries can cooperate with WHO expert mission in an open, transparent and responsible manner like China did.

You may have noticed that the experts also said that the virus may have been spread in places other than China early on. This is one more reason that a global perspective is needed to carry out the origin-tracing work in multiple countries and sites. The report also proposes multiple tasks to be conducted worldwide. We hope the US and relevant countries can work with WHO in a science-based way like China did.

Q7 The Paper: The WHO said that the team "expressed the difficulties they encountered in accessing raw data. I expect future collaborative studies to include more timely and comprehensive data sharing". I wonder if China has any response?

Hua Chunying: After China and WHO agreed on the Terms of Reference (TOR) in July last year, China organized a large number of institutions and manpower to carry out data collection, collation, and analysis in accordance with the suggestions of the foreign experts. In the process of the joint mission, the Chinese and foreign experts also carried out a joint analysis of the data. To prepare for the scientific exchange and cooperation, the Chinese authorities gathered relevant institutions and several hundred scientists to collect, collate data and conduct initial analysis. The Chinese side also presented item by item raw data of particular concern. The international experts have also said on many open occasions that they had full and candid discussions with the Chinese side with regard to data issues. As the medical files contain a large amount of information which is personal privacy, relevant data are not allowed by law to be copied or taken abroad, which is common practice in many countries. The international experts said they completely understand. At yesterday's press conference, they reiterated this point. Going forward, China stands ready to continue working with international experts to jointly study and analyze the data.

Q8 China Daily: Some Western countries have accused the Chinese government of interfering in the WHO team's work, leading to a lack of independence, professionalism and transparency of the mission. Do you have a response?

Hua Chunying: The 17 international experts who came to China were all selected by the WHO. Most are from Western countries including the US, the UK, France and Australia. China didn't raise any objection to the makeup of the team. As a matter of fact, the Chinese government did a lot of administrative, technical and logistic support work for this joint study of origins, offered the team every convenience, and arranged a rich itinerary with many site visits. The experts on the mission made their own decisions independently as to where they would like to visit, who they would like to talk to and what they would like to talk about as the field work proceeded. The report is also drafted by the mission independently. It is just absurd to allege any sort of interference. Several international experts have said on multiple occasions that they visited all the places they wanted to go and met with all the people they wanted to see, speaking highly of China's openness and transparency. Those outsiders who never took part in the joint study are now accusing the team of being interfered. This is highly frivolous and irresponsible. They want to muddy the waters by making up and spreading rumors to achieve their hidden political purposes. We can all see this very clearly.

Besides the origin-tracing issue, some in the West also have preconceptions with presumption of guilt on other issues, including on Xinjiang. As long as what they see does not conform to their imagination or conjecture, they will label it as results of intervention, the lack of independence and transparency. Facts have proved that every time they make such statements, they will be slapped in the face again and again by the facts. I hope that the relevant people can still show some respect for facts and give up such a bad practice or attempt of political manipulation.

Q10 Wall Street Journal: Another follow-up question on Dr. Tedros' remarks on the need for further investigation into the possibility of a laboratory incident being behind the leak of the virus. Are you saying that China will not allow any further investigation of the Wuhan Institute of Virology or other Chinese laboratories? Or are you saying that it will only allow that if there is also investigation of the laboratories in other countries, including in the United States. Second question, do you have any response to the European Union's statement on the Wuhan mission which also expressed regrets over delays and the lack of access and called for an independent and transparent investigation. And thirdly, do you have any information on when the phase two studies of this global study will begin. Is China already working on some parts of that. If so, which parts?

Hua Chunying: In fact I almost covered all three questions you asked in my previous replies. On your first question, I need to correct you on that this is not an investigation, it's a scientific joint study on COVID-19 origin-tracing. China's attitude has always been open, transparent, candid and responsible. As I just mentioned, the joint mission already visited various biosafety laboratories including the WIV. Through in-depth, candid scientific research and field visits, they basically ruled out the hypothesis of lab leak, deeming it as extremely unlikely. This conclusion is drawn after in-depth scientific study and joint research in Wuhan, and is also a definite and important conclusion in the joint report. As to whether this possibility exists or not, as I said just now, the experts

have made it clear that if there is further evidence to warrant a reassessment, related work can also be carried out in relevant laboratories around the world.

As you all know, they've looked at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and done some research. So when will the US biological base at Fort Detrick, with a big question mark over it, allow international experts in for a visit? It seems that the US media have avoided covering this issue since the outbreak of the epidemic. In June 2019, there were reports in the US media about this, but later on we could hardly see any. Why is that? Haven't you American media always had a good tradition of getting to the bottom of things, following the facts, and doing in-depth investigative reports? Why do the media, which are so good at this kind of investigative reporting, now remain silent?

As far as China is concerned, our attitude is consistent. We have always been open, frank and aboveboard, and have welcomed the expert group to visit Wuhan. We also invited US media to visit and interview the Wuhan Institute of Virology. If necessary, we also hope that the US side can show such a candid and cooperative gesture as China did.

On your second question, like I said just now, the international experts who came to China this time were selected by the WHO, and most of them came from the US, the UK, France, Australia and other Western countries. China has not raised any objection to the composition of the team. How could anyone say we intervene in this? As I said just now, some Western countries are really used to preconceived ideas. Whenever they fail to achieve their goals and see conclusions that are not what they want, they will make accusations of lack of independence, openness and transparency. But what is the truth? How are they doing on their own?

As for your third question, I have just answered it. The joint mission has pointed out that the origin-tracing work should take a global perspective. The relevant work going forward will not be limited to a certain field, but needs to be carried out in multiple countries. The joint report also proposed a number of future origin-tracing tasks worldwide.

I think the origin-tracing is a bit like solving a criminal case, and there are a lot of confusing clues. It is necessary to eliminate all kinds of superficial issues and find out the essence from all kinds of signs. We can neither wrong a good man nor spare a bad man. All the clues that are worth investigating should be closely grasped. Some Western countries are now trying to interfere with the work of scientists. Such political interference is highly irresponsible and frivolous.

We still maintain that this work should be left to scientists, without any political interference or bias in attempt to disrupt the normal work of scientists. This is a responsible attitude we should assume, towards the whole mankind. Let scientists figure out what the problem really is so we can deal with it more effectively in the future.

Q11 Follow-up: Just to clarify my third question, I was talking about the phase two studies that are recommended in the report from the joint WHO China mission. This is the report that has been endorsed also by the Chinese side. It calls for several further steps, including closer analysis of potential earlier cases from before December 2019. Dr. Tedros again in his meeting with member states yesterday, said that it was necessary to get full access to data, including biological samples from at least September 2019. My question is, when do those phase two studies begin or if they have already begun? What work is already being done?

Hua Chunying: As I said just now, this is a matter for scientists, and I don't have the right to decide when or whether to do it. I would also like to remind you that the head of the WHO joint mission Peter Ben Embarek also mentioned in the video press conference that the virus could have been present outside of China in the early stage. Studies published in other countries also suggest the possibility of earlier transmission and more efforts should be made to study these papers. Therefore, the joint mission pointed out that the origin-tracing work should be based on a global perspective, and not be limited to a single region. It needs to be carried out in multiple places in various countries. As for when to start, we should leave this task to international experts and WHO. Don't be too hasty and don't try to intervene. That's the right attitude.

From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 7 April 2021 12:53 pm

To:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>; MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; ...SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: WHO report

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Heath,

We (Peter and I) are meeting with MoH and MPI tomorrow afternoon to discuss feedback on the report from respective agencies and to agree a high level NZ Inc. position. We will discuss the timing for providing advice to all Ministers based on the discussions tomorrow – MoH is leading the process of pulling together this advice.

Following the meeting tomorrow afternoon MFAT will pull together a high level statement for the PM's purposes, to be sent to Guergana by cop on Friday – as agreed last week. We'll obviously keep you copied.

Based on this there is no update for 2pm today - best to stick with the existing lines:

If asked about New Zealand's position on the report / if we will be providing a statement on the report

- This is an important report, and a key first step in the work to understand the origins of COVID-19 and its introduction to the human population.

s9(2)(g)(i)

- Our technical experts, who have also been fully engaged with the wider COVID response, are currently analysing the report and working as quickly as they can. This is a scientific report and we want to make sure we understand the science before making any comment.

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks,
Kathryn

From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 7 April 2021 5:58 pm

To:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

[RESTRICTED]

Kia ora koutou,

As discussed today the next steps on the origins mission report are:

Tomorrow 8th April – MFAT MPI and MoH will meet to discuss agency feedback on the report and agree a NZ position – key points. We will also discuss updated media points based on our agreed position + advice for Ministers regarding a national statement/press release including where and when this should be delivered/released.

9th April – MFAT will provide agreed media points to PM and MFA, MoH will provide these to Ministers Hipkins and Little. MFAT will work with MoH and MPI to draft a submission to Ministers advising on NZs response to the report – this will include any proposed national statement/press release.

12th – 13th April – Finalisation and clearance of submission and national statement/press release by agencies, submission goes to PM and Ministers Mahuta and Little for approval.

Let me know if any questions,

Kathryn

From: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:37 am

RESTRICTED

Page 55 of 115

To:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc:SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>;GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; NEEDS, Andrew (SEA) <Andrew.Needs@mfat.govt.nz>; CUDDY, Sharon (AMER) <Sharon.Cuddy@mfat.govt.nz>; CHURCHILL, James (AMER) <James.Churchill@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; LOAN, Ruth (CEO Office) <Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) <Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: NZ response to WHO report on the origins of COVID-19 : suggested draft

[RESTRICTED]

Heath thanks for your time on the phone just now.
As discussed, please see below the email from Amy s9(2)(g)(i)

The proposal is that the statement would be **delivered by Lucy Duncan in GVA at the weekly WHO COVID briefing, Thursday Geneva time** (overnight NZT).
s9(2)(g)(i)

We do not have to decide immediately whether this should be NZ's final word on the origins report: MOH and MPI's scientific analysis of the report is ongoing. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

We'd be grateful for your confirmation we can proceed along these lines. Happy to discuss further.

Mark Ramsden (he/him)

Divisional Manager

United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E mark.ramsden@mfat.govt.nz

From: LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, April 2021 10:44 AM
To: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: NEEDS, Andrew (SEA) <Andrew.Needs@mfat.govt.nz>; CUDDY, Sharon (AMER) <Sharon.Cuddy@mfat.govt.nz>; CHURCHILL, James (AMER) <James.Churchill@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; LOAN, Ruth (CEO Office) <Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) <Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: NZ response to WHO report on the origins of COVID-19 : suggested draft

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Mark,

POLI-258-408

RESTRICTED

CE is talking to Ashley shortly s6(a) (he raised it after the CVD CE meeting).
 Can you please proceed on an objections only process internally s6(a) with comment only re anything we object to/not perfecting, with the aim to get it to GVA tonight.
 Will let you know if Ashley call goes ahead (ie what MoH can add to fill out the square brackets).
 Thanks,
 Amy.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
www.blackberry.com

From:SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:11 PM
To: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Question for Minister

Also, who has commented to date? There was the US-led statement, plus EU statement in Geneva, plus India – who else?

And has anyone commented on the substance or have all the statements to date been process-focussed?

Alexandra Smithyman

Private Secretary (Minister of Foreign Affairs)
 s9(2)(a)
 [SEEMAIL RESTRICTED]

From: Alexandra Smithyman
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:59 AM
To: 'BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC)' <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: Heath Fisher <Heath.Fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Question for Minister
Importance: High

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i) so could we
 have some updated points to the questions below.

Or, if not by 1.30pm, when will we be in a position to say more?

Alexandra Smithyman

Private Secretary (Minister of Foreign Affairs)

s9(2)(a)

[SEEMAIL RESTRICTED]

From: Alex Masters

Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:46 AM

To: Heath Fisher <Heath.Fisher@parliament.govt.nz>; Alexandra Smithyman <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Question for Minister

Can I please get a draft response (to come from me) responding to Audrey please. s9(2)(g)(i)

Additionally I am happy to receive a very fulsome response that I can talk to Audrey about on the phone.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Can I please get this by 1.30pm. It shouldn't be hard for MFAT to quickly draw up as it's a question that's been raised all week.

Thanks

Alex

From: Audrey Young [mailto:Audrey.Young@nzme.co.nz]

Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:40 AM

To: Alex Masters <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: Question for Minister

Hi Alex

Could you put these questions to the Minister of Foreign Affairs please?

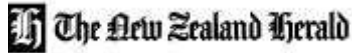
Has New Zealand yet reached a position on the WHO-convened report on the global study of the origins of Covid?

If so, what is that position?

If not, when does she expect to have reached a position and will she issue a statement?

Thanks.

AUDREY YOUNG
POLITICAL EDITOR



D: s9(2)(a)

E: audrey.young@nzherald.co.nz

From: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:43 pm

To:SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodl y@mfat.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Question for Minister

Importance: High

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Alex

[Media points](#) (taken in part from a s6(a) [production now](#)) under

Has New Zealand yet reached a position on the WHO-convened report on the global study of the origins of Covid?

We think it is vital the world understands the origins of the virus, so that we can improve the global health system and reduce the risk of a future pandemic. s9(2)(g)(i)

If so, what is that position?

The WHO-led COVID-19 origins study has drawn together useful material – but as the report itself says, further work will be needed. s9(2)(g)(i)

We will be asking the WHO Director-General to propose a timeline for next phases of work.

If not, when does she expect to have reached a position and will she issue a statement?

s9(2)(g)(i)

Others' statements

As per your list, public statements we are aware of are the US (+14: Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom), EU and India. s9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers

Mark Ramsden (he/him)

Divisional Manager

United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E mark.ramsden@mfat.govt.nz

From:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 1:16 pm

To: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc:SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>;GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; AURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; NEEDS, Andrew (SEA) <Andrew.Needs@mfat.govt.nz>; CUDDY, Sharon (AMER) <Sharon.Cuddy@mfat.govt.nz>; CHURCHILL, James (AMER) <James.Churchill@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; LOAN, Ruth (CEO Office) <Ruth.Loan@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) <Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfa.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: NZ response to WHO report on the origins of COVID-19 : suggested draft

MFA comfortable with the approach, although we'd be interested to see what MoH might add following your discussion.

Have spoken with Geri, she will now consult with PMO/PM.



Heath Fisher

Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate Minister for Māori Development

M: s9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

[Seemail Restricted]

From: UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 7:01 pm
To: GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; CPCD <DM-CPCD@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; ADDIS ABABA <DM-AUE@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; APECPOL <APECPOL@mfat.govt.nz>; ARD <DM-ARD@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; BANGKOK <BKK@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; B RLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>; BRIDGETOWN <BRG@mfat.govt.nz>; BRUSSELS <BRU@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; CCD <DM-CCD@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS APEC NZ <DSAPECNZ@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS TEG <DM-DSTEG@mfat.govt.nz>; ECO <DM-ECO@mfat.govt.nz>; ENV <DM ENV@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; JAKARTA <JAK@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON LON@mfat.govt.nz>; MEXICO <MEX@mfat.govt.nz>; MOSCOW <MOS@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; NEW YORK <NYK@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; PARIS <PAR@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; ROME <ROM@mfat.govt.nz>; SEA <DM-SEA@mfat.govt.nz>; STOCKHOLM <SKM@mfat.govt.nz>; SUVA SVA@mfat.govt.nz>; TND <TND@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; VIENNA <VNA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.Health Ministry (Seemail) <trade@health.govt.nz>; FM.P/S Health (Seemail) <FMPSHealth@mfat.net.nz>; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail) <DPMCFPA@mfat.net.nz>; FM MPI (Seemail) <mfat.messages@mpi.govt.nz>; COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) Treasury (Seemail) <merlin@treasury.govt.nz>; FM.MBIE Formal Messages (Seemail) <cables@mbie.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>; UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: NEW ZEALAND COMMENTS

[RESTRICTED]

RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY

The COVID-19 origins mission report was released publically last week. We provide comments on the report for New Zealand to deliver at the weekly WHO member state briefing.

HOHENGA – ACTION

GVA: grateful if HOM (Duncan) could please deliver the comments in paragraph 2 at this week's (8 April Geneva time) WHO member state briefing.

PŪRONGO – REPORT

1 s6(a) – Woodley – Duncan et al emails, not to all, refer. s6(a) comments for New Zealand to deliver on the COVID-19 origins mission report. The comments are to be delivered at this week's World Health Organization (WHO) member state briefing, taking place 8 April in Geneva.

2 We would be grateful if HOM (Duncan) could please deliver the following:

New Zealand fully supported WHO taking leadership in establishing the origin of SARS-CoV-2 and its transmission to the human population. We see it as a shared responsibility of the global community to cooperate and share information, data and samples with full transparency, so we can learn from this pandemic and better prepare for the next one.

We recognise that the WHO led COVID-19 origins study has drawn together useful material, but as Director General Tedros has stated, it will need to be supplemented by further studies to identify the source of the virus.

We call on the Director-General to propose a timeline for the next phase of work necessary to discover the origin of SARS-CoV-2.

And in the same way we look to the past, we must look to the future.

In responding to any future outbreak of a new pathogen, it will be essential for all Member States to commit to allowing rapid access by independent expert analysts to relevant locations, and to environmental data and blood samples. We would also encourage greater collaboration generally on pandemic preparedness, and stand ready to support this work.

MUTU – ENDS

From: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2021 7:15 pm

To: GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Question for Minister

[RESTRICTED]

s9(2)(g)(i)

Kathryn is working on some revised points which we'll clear through MOH and MPI first thing in the morning

Cheers

Mark Ramsden (he/him)