

9 August 2021

Deborah Drew

By email: fyi-request-16170-2021921a@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202109389

Tēnā koe Deborah

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 23 July 2021 for information related to CovSars-2 PCR test results. You specifically requested:

“(CovSars-2) PCR test results are sent to ESR CDC. That data is then made available to which organisations after that? Are they privately owned DNA data bases? The individual whose DNA is extracted is made aware of where it is sent, how it is used and is this also fully consented to by the individual tested in NZ?”

The PCR test results held in the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) éclair Clinical Data Repository (CDR) are provided by laboratories contracted to undertake testing. These laboratories are not doing DNA sequencing, rather they are searching the RNA for the COVSARS-2 genome. Based on the result of the RNA search, a *Detected* or *Not Detected* result is generated. This result does not contain any DNA or RNA sequencing information.


The result message is sent to the following organisations:

- The requestor
- The DHB Regional Clinical Data Repository
- The ESR Clinical Data Repository
- ESR then send a copy of the result to the Ministry of Health’s data warehouses and key applications such as the National Contact Tracing System

The Ministry has provided anonymised extracts of the results to external organisations and individuals who have supported the Ministry in tracking, projecting and analysing COVSARS-2.

I trust this information satisfies your request under the Act. 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.

Nāku noa, nā


Gaynor Bradfield
Manager, Office of the Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital