

13 September 2021

Anna McAfee

**By email:** [fyi-request-16384-8c490417@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-16384-8c490417@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Anna

**Official Information Act Request: Methods and technology used to detect the Delta Variant**

On 11 August 2021 you sent a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 to the Ministry of Health, who transferred your request to ESR on 16 August 2021. Your request was as follows:

*“Please provide documents pertaining to the exact methods and technology used by New Zealand laboratories, to detect the Delta Variant of the Covid 19 Virus.”*

**Our response to your request:**

The variants of SARS-CoV-2, including the Delta variant, are determined by genome sequencing. Detailed information on genome sequencing can be found on our website at the following link: <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-expertise/covid-19-response/new-news-page/>

**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](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**