

2 November 2021

Tess

By email: fyi-request-17030-df12623c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Tess

Official Information Act Request: Genome sequencing

On 4 October 2021 you sent a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 to ESR as follows:

- “1. Are you obtaining your genome sequencing from supplied positive PCR samples? If so, what is the average CT value? and if not, how are you obtaining your material/data to work with?”*
- 2. Out of all of the positive COVID19 results in New Zealand, how many have been genome sequenced?*
- 3. Of all of the genome sequenced results, how many are a direct match to COVID19 (all variants)?*
- 4. From the positive test results that were genome sequenced, how many variants have been found? and which variants were these?”*

The Act requires that we advise you of our decision on your request no later than 2 November 2021, being 20 working days after the date we received your request. Unfortunately, it will not be possible for us to meet this time limit and we are therefore writing to notify you of an extension of the time to make our decision to **29 November 2021**.

This extension is necessary because your request necessitates a search through a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with our operations.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Jill Vintiner

**Joint General Manager Health and Environment Group – Health
ESR**