

1 November 2021

Paul McKenna

By email: [fyi-request-17246-cea70d78@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17246-cea70d78@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202114656

Tēnā koe Paul

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 18 October 2021 for:

*“1. An update to include all cases from 24/2/21 to 18/10/21 but in addition add the vaccination status to each case.*

Please find attached an excel spreadsheet which contains the information requested.

*2. An explanation of what constitutes a 'weak' Positive 3. An explanation of what constitutes a 'very weak' Positive”*

Calling a result as weak or very weak signal is a clinical decision made by the clinical microbiologist viewing the results and depends on various factors including how many genes per assay had detectable amplicon. For instance, if the microbiologist has an assay where only one of two gene targets are detected, they will repeat the test on another assay for confirmation. If that assay also has only one gene out of two or three detected, then the microbiologist will call it a confirmed but very weak positive because at least two gene targets were detectable on that sample albeit with very weak signals.

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases).

Nāku noa, nā



Gill Hall  
**Group Manager, Science and Insights**  
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