

Hon Dr Megan Woods

MP for Wigram

Minister of Housing

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister of Research, Science and Innovation

Associate Minister of Finance



R S Grant
fyi-request-17782-4062a7c1@requests.fyi.org.nz

18 JAN 2021

Ref: OIA21-292

Dear Richard

On 1 December 2021 you requested the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (The Act):

" Under the guidance for public sector workplaces on the business.govt.nz website (<https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/covid-19-protection-framework/services/>) in "red" regions "Workplaces are open with working from home encouraged if appropriate to the workplace".

This request for information relates to how agencies are treating staff who are located in "red" regions and who are able to work adequately from home. Please can you advise which of the agencies for which you are responsible (including Crown Research Institutes) are encouraging such staff to work from home, and which are not?"

I expect all agencies to adhere to the policy and operational guidelines established in the Covid-19 Protection Framework Protocols (Traffic Light System). I expect the agencies with staff located in a "red" region who are able to work adequately from home to encourage their staff to do so. Any staff located in a "red" region who are unable to work adequately from home may work on site by agreement with their organisation management, with appropriate protocols in place, in line with the operational guidelines established in the Covid-19 Protection Framework Protocols (Traffic Light System).

Research Science and Innovation

There are 8 agencies in scope of your request: Callaghan Innovation; AgResearch Limited; The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Limited; Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research Limited; The Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited; The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited; New Zealand Forest Research Institute Limited (Scion) Limited; Plant & Food Research Limited. All of the identified agencies have confirmed they are committed to adhering to the policy and operational guidelines established in the Covid-19 Protection Framework Protocols (Traffic Light System).

Associate Finance

NZ Post has issued internally some guidance around operating within the different traffic light settings. Under this guidance people working at corporate sites in "red" regions are encouraged to work from home.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision on this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Woods', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Dr Megan Woods
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