

28 January 2021

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Chuck Schooner

By email: fyi-request-18022-74035bb8@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202200053

Tēnā koe Chuck

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 21 December 2021 for information relating to details of the Director-General's conflicts of interest and the communications with the World Health Organisation (WHO). Please find a response to each part of your request below.

Please provide any and all direct communications with any and all WHO officials you are directly communicating with on the pandemic response.

On 20 January 2022 the Ministry advised you in accordance with section 18B of the Act, this part of your request, as it was worded, would require a search through close to two years of the Director-General's incoming and outgoing correspondence to respond to your request and may be refused under section 18(f) of the Act. Under section 13 of the Act, the Ministry suggested narrowing the scope of your request by selecting a specific timeframe to enable the Ministry to better manage your request. However, the Ministry did not receive a response from you.

While the Ministry has considered your request, it has been determined that providing a response would require substantial collation. This is considered 'substantial' as it would have a significant and unreasonable impact on the Ministry and its ability to carry out their critical operations. Therefore, this request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act. The Ministry remains willing to engage with you on a revised scope for your request.

Please supply any and all perceived or actual conflicts of interest that you may have in completing an effective pandemic response.

On 25 January 2022 the Ministry partially transferred this part of your request under section 14 of the Act as the information you have requested is more closely connected with the functions of the Public Service Commission (PSC). You can expect a response on a decision from the PSC to your request in due course.

Dr Bloomfield was previously employed by the Ministry in several roles between 1997 to 2012 with some time outside of the Ministry, primarily at Wellington's two district health boards (DHBs). The Ministry does not hold any conflict of interest declarations for Dr Bloomfield during his earlier employment with the Ministry.

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



Fergus Welsh
**Acting Deputy Director-General
Corporate Services**