

20 January 2022

Helen Wallis

By email: fyi-request-18108-4d8702d3@requests.fyi.org.nz  
Ref: H202200120

Tēnā koe Helen

### **Partial transfer of your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 5 January 2021 for:

- “1. Please provide the complete section(s) of RNA code which is detected by the RT-PCR test for Covid-19 and somehow identify the areas where the differences occur between the variants.*
- 2. Please provide the different sections of code (under those which are tested) for each of the 3 main variants of concern, alpha, delta and omicron.*
- 3. Please provide a full disclosure explanation of how a positive NAAT RT-PCR test shows a positive case of Covid-19 after detecting a nominal amount of nucleic acid which belong to a virus rather than showing that the person is indeed infected with a replicating virus.*
- 4. There must have be some discussion to decide that an asymptomatic person who carries genetic material (shown by the RT-PCR test) from what could be either a replicating virus or a non-replicating virus is a "positive" covid case. Please provide the documentation for this discussion. Also please provide the documents showing that it isn't necessary for a Doctor to check the patient for signs of illness to confirm this "positive case"*
- 5. Please also provide a full disclosure explanation of how an asymptomatic case has been deemed to be infectious. Quoting a RT-PCR test here is insufficient as it only shows that genetic material form the searched for nucleic acid is present, not that there is any further infection. As confirmed by CDC, Dr Fauci and others the NAAT doesn't prove that the tested person is infectious only that they carry the genetic material that was tested for by the NAAT”*

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) believes parts 1, 2, 3, and 5 of your request are more closely connected with the functions of the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR). For this reason, I have decided to partially transfer the parts indicated above to ESR under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response to these parts of your request from ESR in due course.

Please note, the Ministry will respond to part four of your request as soon as reasonably practicable.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Torres', written over a vertical line.

Jan Torres

**Acting Manger, OIA Services  
Office of the Director-General**

## Copy of OIA Request

Helen Wallis <fyi-request-18108-4d8702d3@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Wed 5/01/2022 23:39

Dear Ministry of Health,

Please provide the complete section(s) of RNA code which is detected by the RT-PCR test for Covid-19 and somehow identify the areas where the differences occur between the variants.

Please provide the different sections of code (under those which are tested) for each of the 3 main variants of concern, alpha, delta and omicron.

Please provide a full disclosure explanation of how a positive NAAT RT-PCR test shows a positive case of Covid-19 after detecting a nominal amount of nucleic acid which belong to a virus rather than showing that the person is indeed infected with a replicating virus.

There must have be some discussion to decide that an asymptomatic person who carries genetic material (shown by the RT-PCR test) from what could be either a replicating virus or a non-replicating virus is a "positive" covid case. Please provide the documentation for this discussion. Also please provide the documents showing that it isn't necessary for a Doctor to check the patient for signs of illness to confirm this "positive case"

Please also provide a full disclosure explanation of how an asymptomatic case has been deemed to be infectious. Quoting a RT-PCR test here is insufficient as it only shows that genetic material form the searched for nucleic acid is present, not that there is any further infection. As confirmed by CDC, Dr Fauci and others the NAAT doesn't prove that the tested person is infectious only that they carry the genetic material that was tested for by the NAAT.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Wallis