



16 June 2022

Athina Andonatonou
fyi-request-19421-b349a135@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2021/22-1358

Dear Athina Andonatonou

Official Information Act request regarding the World Health Organisation and preparation for COVID-19

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 22 May 2022. You requested:

“Dear Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, It is come to my attention that the World Health Organisation may have instructed our Government to prepare for an imminent coronavirus pandemic. As the truth is hard to find at this time, I am requesting all documentation, all communications and all reports between

- 1) the Government and WHO*
- 2) The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management and The WHO*
- 3) The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management and the Prime Minister For the period covering 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020”*

Please note that on 1 December 2019 the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) become operational and all of the existing functions of the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) transferred into the new Agency, with the Ministry ceasing to exist.

On 1 June 2020, I advised you that question one of your request was more closely connected to the functions of the Ministry of Health and subsequently transferred this part of the request to the Ministry of Health for response.

Both NEMA and MCDEM do not hold any information within scope of questions two and three of your request. Therefore I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

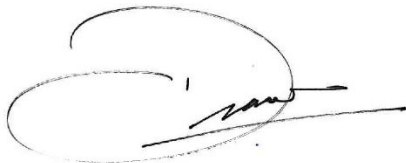
You may find some useful information in the document *Proposed Amendment to the Health Act 1956 - Novel Coronavirus*, which is publicly available on the Unite Against COVID-19 website:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/Proactive-Releases/proactive-release/Proposed-Amendment-to-the-Health-Act-1956-Novel-Coronavirus-Paper-28-01-20.pdf>.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gawn', with a large, loopy flourish above it.

Dave Gawn
Chief Executive
National Emergency Management Agency