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11 August 2022

Scott

By email: fyi-request-19579-45bc1de1@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202208157

Tēnā koe Scott

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), transferred from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 21 June 2022 for information regarding COVID-19 misinformation data:

“ONE: The report titled “False information reporting data from 15 Sep to 5 December 2021” This report is referred to on p.31 of this document published on the Unite against COVID-19 website

TWO: All other reports in the same “false information reporting data” series, dated since the beginning of this year. This can be confined to reports that cover a period of one month or more.”

On 22 June 2022, you were advised that the referenced report in your request was provided by CERT New Zealand to the Ministry in the form of raw data, rather than as a report. On 23 June 2022, you amended your request accordingly:

“Thank you for your email. Yes, I would like my request to be taken to mean the raw data.”

The raw data you have requested is reports from individuals made to CERT New Zealand that contains within it identifying information such as names of individuals, dates, times and links to social media accounts and websites. For this reason, the requested information is withheld in full under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect privacy of natural persons.

The Ministry also deems it appropriate to refuse filtered data under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In line with section 13 of the Act, the Ministry is providing further information about the data reported by CERT New Zealand regarding false information:

- CERT New Zealand provided a total of 2,574 reports on false information
- The Voices for Freedom group had the most reports (1,344)

- Auckland was the area that had the most reporting (390)
- August and December 2021 were the months that received the most reports (437 and 413 respectively)
- The Voices for Freedom website was the most reported website (1,018)

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Turner', is positioned above the typed name.

Sarah Turner
**Deputy Director-General
Government and Executive Services**