

14 February 2023

R S Grant

[fyi-request-20776-14ad6cda@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-20776-14ad6cda@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe R S Grant

**Your request for official information, reference: HN20007733**

Thank you for your email of 27 November 2022, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the act):

- 1. I am looking for any information at all that you can provide that can demonstrate, with evidential support, that the NZ Traveller Declaration was actually used for something in practice. Not in theory - in practice.*
- 2. Please provide any information that you have that can support your earlier statement that “the NZ Traveller Declaration has been a highly valuable resource for our contact tracing team when investigating border cases”.*
- 3. Please provide the total number of cases that your contact tracing teams worked on during the period since the NZ Traveller Declaration was introduced, by month.*

I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

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The New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD)<sup>1</sup> was designed for and used during the period when New Zealand had quarantine free travel arrangements with our international neighbours. During this period, when a community case was reported, communications were sent to all travellers who had travelled to (or from) the region the case had been in during their infectious period. Data from the NZTD was used for these communications which alerted travellers to the increased risk of COVID-19 exposure. As per **Table One** below, data from the NZTD was used to communicate with 89,992 travellers over this time.

The NZTD was also used to assist to source contact details for cases and close contacts. The National Investigation and Tracing Centre runs a “Finders Service” that is used contact details are not readily available or out of date. The Finders Service uses a range of available databases to search for contact details, and the NZTD data was used as part of this. As outlined in **Table One**, over 33,000 records were referred to the Finders Service between the period April 2023 – October 2022.

Data from the NZTD was valuable for sourcing contact details of close contacts who had recently arrived into the country, as it contained more up to date details than other national data sets.

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<sup>1</sup> The New Zealand Traveller Declaration replaced a system called Nau Mai Rā. Nau Mai Rā was established in the first quarter of 2021 and the NZTD became operational in March 2022. The NZTD was then disestablished on 20 October 2022.

Whilst we are not able to identify individual instances of when data from the NZTD was used to source correct contact information for cases or contacts, we trust that this summary level of information responds to your request and demonstrates when the NZTD has been used in practice.

**Table One** contains the numbers of:

- cases reported during the months the NZTD was in place,
  - cases and contacts referred to the Finders Service for further investigation, where the NZTD was one of several data sets used to find contact details,
  - travellers contacted due to a community case during the time the quarantine free travel arrangements were in place.
3. *Please provide the total number of cases that your contact tracing teams worked on during the period since the NZ Traveller Declaration was introduced, by month.*

Please refer to **Table One** enclosed.

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Chrystal O'Connor**  
**Group Manager, National Investigation Centre and Testing**  
**Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand**

**Table One: Data for the period the Nau Mai Rā or New Zealand Traveller Declaration were operational (01-04-2021 – 20-10-2022)**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of cases reported</b>	<b>Cases and contacts sent to Finders Service</b>	<b>Quarantine free travellers contacted</b>
Apr-21	115	-	1
May-21	54	1,438	25,359
Jun-21	72	340	47,047
Jul-21	126	175	17,507
Aug-21	770	4,633	8
Sep-21	656	1,513	-
Oct-21	2,326	964	-
Nov-21	5,142	2,054	-
Dec-21	2,437	791	-
Jan-22	2,510	1,148	-
Feb-22	103,904	2,817	-
Mar-22	552,066	7,677	-
Apr-22	265,794	1,745	-
May-22	238,099	1,642	-
Jun-22	176,352	1,328	-
Jul-22	269,114	2,702	-
Aug-22	120,990	1,534	-
Sep-22	44,298	400	-
Oct-22	38,459	276	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,823,284</b>	<b>33,177</b>	<b>89,922</b>