



15 December 2022

Michael Vaughan

By email: fyi-request-21286-dc03da4b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H2022017727

Tēnā koe Michael

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 28 November 2022 for information regarding the Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Ionising Radiation. Please find a response to each part of your request below:

- 1) Please provide an up-to-date list of the current members of the Interagency Committee for Health Effects of Non-Ionising Radiation.*

Please see attached as Document 1 a list of the current members of the Interagency Committee for Health Effects of Non-Ionising Radiation.

- 2) Please provide e-mail addresses for these Committee members and/or an e-mail address to which correspondence can be sent to the Committee.*

You can contact the committee by emailing: info@health.govt.nz

- 3) Please provide the Minutes of the last three meetings of the Committee and the date of the next meeting.*

Manatū Hauora has identified 3 documents within scope of this part of your request. All documents within scope of your request are itemised in Appendix 1 and copies of the documents are enclosed.

- 4) Please give details of the process by which relevant scientific research studies and reviews are brought to the attention of the Committee, including details of any individual responsibilities in this respect.*
- 5) Please provide details of the 'checks and balances' in place to ensure that Committee members are being presented with the full range of relevant research and that ALL relevant studies are being brought to the attention of the committee, whether or not health effects are identified in the study.*

All members are free to, and encouraged to bring relevant information to the committee, and should they choose to do so it is for them to use their professional judgement as to what is of interest. Members may identify reviews prepared by national and international health and scientific bodies. Examples of the criteria for individual studies include:

- whether the publishing journal is included by PubMed
- whether the researchers followed good scientific practice (eg, double-blind evaluation, sham controls, proper dosimetry/exposure evaluation)
- whether the end points are directly related to human health and/or areas of uncertainty highlighted in national/international reviews.

The Committee does not, however, aim to conduct a systematic review of all recently published research, as this work is already undertaken periodically by expert panels assembled by national and international health and scientific agencies. These reviews are an important input to the Committee's work.

A recent summary of the key research reviewed by the Committee may be found at [health.govt.nz/publication/interagency-committee-health-effects-non-ionising-fields-report-ministers-2022](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/interagency-committee-health-effects-non-ionising-fields-report-ministers-2022). This also includes a brief description of the process the Committee follows.

6) Please give the names and qualifications of any Committee members having postgraduate qualifications or above in biology, epidemiology or similar fields of expertise.

7) Apart from the representatives of the telecommunications industry, please give details of any other members of the Committee who have employment, contractual or any other form of relationship with the telecommunications industry.

John Dockerty and Andrea t'Mannetje are the academic representatives on the Committee. You can find details about their qualifications below:

- www.otago.ac.nz/dsm-psm/people/academic-search/profile/?id=726
- www.massey.ac.nz/massey/expertise/profile.cfm?stref=942830

As we have stated in previous responses to you, the Committee membership includes representatives from government, industry, academic and consumer groups. Further information on the composition and terms of reference for the Committee is publicly available and can be found at [health.govt.nz/our-work/environmental-health/non-ionising-radiation/research-non-ionising-radiation](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/environmental-health/non-ionising-radiation/research-non-ionising-radiation)

Most, if not all, of the Committee members have some form of relationship with the telecommunications industry. They are appointed due to their expertise and knowledge of that industry, and this is necessary for them to carry out their function.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Old', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrew Old
Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	Undated.	List of members of Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Ionising Fields.	Released in full.
2	18 February 2021	Meeting Notes – Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Ionising Fields	
3	17 February 2022	Meeting Notes – Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Ionising Fields.	
4	22 September 2022	Meeting Notes - Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Ionising Fields.	