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Erika Whittome

By email: [fyi-request-28455-05f56afa@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28455-05f56afa@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2024059037

Tēnā koe Erika

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your follow up request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 21 December 2024 for information regarding the definition of misinformation in relation to Google's COVID-19 Misinformation Policy for ad services. You requested:

*The MoH signed an agreement with YouTube that says: On Maps, our policies prohibit misinformation about prevention, transmission and treatment services, as well as allegations that an individual contracted COVID-19 at a particular location. These types of contributed content will be removed. However the Ministry has not provided the information on the criteria for "misinformation".*

*Would you kindly ask Youtube given the chief legal officer of the MoH, Phil Knipe signed agreement with Youtube?*

The document you are referencing, previously released to you as Document 2A in an earlier OIA response dated 17 September 2024 (H2024046938 refers), is produced and owned by Google. If you have any questions about it, you may ask Google directly. You may be interested in the following publicly available information, which outlines YouTube's misinformation policies in more detail: [www.youtube.com/intl/ALL\\_au/howyoutubeworks/our-commitments/fighting-misinformation/](https://www.youtube.com/intl/ALL_au/howyoutubeworks/our-commitments/fighting-misinformation/).

The Ministry of Health considers that "misinformation" has its plain and ordinary meaning as defined in the Oxford Dictionary – Misinformation: "The dissemination of false information, either knowing it to be false (see disinformation), or unknowingly."

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz).

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.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Phil Knipe  
**Chief Legal Advisor**  
**Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga**