



21 October 2020



Reference: OIA-2020/21-0096

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to Managed Isolation and Quarantine facilities

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 13 August 2020. You requested (numbering added by us):

- 1) *The resulting report from an audit of infection prevention protocol at MIQ facilities.*
- 2) *Any situation reports, weekly monitoring reports, or other update reports, briefings, documents, papers, aide memoires or memos produced regarding the facilities, from June 1 2020 to as close to the present date as possible.*
- 3) *Any reports documents, papers, aide memoires, briefings, or memos containing information or discussion of surveillance or other Covid-19 testing of MIQ staff - including contractors and hotel staff - from June 1 2020 to as close to the present date as possible.*
- 4) *Any documents or other briefings, memos, papers, containing standard operating procedures, protocols, instructions, or guides, or methods of establishing health measures at MIQ facilities, which were to be used by facilities between June 1 2020 to as close to the present day as possible.*
- 5) *Correspondence sent and received by members of the All of Government / MBIE team managing MIQ facilities regarding the discovery of Covid-19 in south Auckland, from 12pm on Tuesday, August 11 and 11am Friday, August 14, 2020.*

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 30 working days because it necessitated consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

I understand that you made the same or similar requests to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). I would transfer parts 1 and 3 to the Ministry of Health and parts 2 and 4 to MBIE under section 14 of the Act, however, as they already have received your request, this transfer is unnecessary at this time.

In terms of the remaining material captured by part 5 of your request, I note that I have interpreted your request as relating specifically to communications about the discovery of the case, and not all communications that followed on from that discovery regarding the subsequent lockdown. Normally, we would seek clarification on which interpretation you intended. However, were the request interpreted to include such a broad definition, I believe it would need be refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial research and collation would be required to locate all relevant information, given the staff involved across the business unit.

I have decided to provide a summary of the COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group's discovery of the COVID-19 case in South Auckland, in addition to providing the relevant communications.

On 11 August, 3:27PM, I was alerted to the existence of the case in question by the Director-General of Health, Dr Ashley Bloomfield, via text message. Further texts were received from Dr Bloomfield, confirming the swab testing that had initially occurred, and that a second swab had occurred. A text giving further details on the case, including the family, their workplaces, the GP surgery and the child's school was received from Dr Bloomfield on 11 August, 6:26PM.

The mode of discovery for the broader COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) from this point on was through meetings and phone calls. A meeting I set up took place at 4:30PM, and staff across our team were called in to be briefed on the situation.

Please find attached information relevant to your request, subject to some information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

In case you find it useful, I can advise that in responding to the case, the then newly established process for rapid response was followed, as set out in the Cabinet material published at the following address: <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-october/SE11-Minute-and-Paper-Rapid-Response-and-Changes-to-COVID-19-Alert-Level-Settings-10-August-2020-.pdf>

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

This response will be published on the DPMC's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



John Ombler
**Deputy Chief Executive,
COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group**

10:03



Outgoing >

iMessage
Tue, 11 Aug, 3:27 PM

Ashley Bloomfield

Have just been notified of a positive case in the community in

s9(2)(a)

symptomatic 5 days tested yesterday. Positive tests confirmed. No obvious link to mif or travel. Have spoken with Auckland imt and arphs. Moh imt being set up. Interview underway now. All close and casual contacts will be isolated and tested and remain isolated until test results back.

First sitrep at 4.

AB

Ashley Bloomfield

AB

Confirming I have had update from Margie apa that second swab is positive as per earlier txt. Will pass that info on to our team

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



Ashley >

Tue, 11 Aug, 4:23 PM

Feel free to come up to moh for 530

Roger

Tue, 11 Aug, 6:26 PM

Ashley, Can you please provide address details for (1) the family, (2) their workplaces (3) the GP surgery, (4) the child's school? Thanks, JO

Will bring what we have so far

Thanks

Family -

s9(2)(a)

Wife workplace -

s9(2)(a)

Husbands workplace -

s9(2)(a)

GP -

s9(2)(a)

School-Mount Albert Primary



Text Message



10:20



Simone >

Tue, 11 Aug, 3:27 PM

Can you arrange a meeting of Brendan, Cheryl, Heather, Nicci and me for 4.30pm. Subject is resurgence.

Done

Brook likely to call meeting at 6pm tonight



Tue, 11 Aug, 6:40 PM

Diary updates:

7:15pm meeting with the PM on Level 9

8:30pm ODESC in Cabinet Committee Room