



133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

21 January 2025

§ 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024057535

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 2 December 2024. You requested:

“I am requesting any and all communications from January 2021 - December 2023 from DART, Manatu Hauora Communications and Engagement Group, or Netsafe regarding requests to limit the reach on any and all social media sites, reports for censorship in NZ legacy media and internet/website search engine restrictions for NZDSOS/New Zealand Doctors Speaking Out with Science.”

The Ministry of Health is not responsible for addressing mis- and disinformation across the digital landscape. Responsibility for limiting and addressing disinformation online lies with other agencies and organisations. For example, Netsafe plays a key role in providing guidance and advice around online safety and managing content while the Digital Safety Group (Te Tari Taiwhenua | Department of Internal Affairs) is involved in broader regulatory measures related to online harm (including disinformation).

The Ministry does not hold communications “regarding requests to limit the reach on any and all social media sites, reports for censorship in NZ legacy media and internet/website search engine restrictions for NZDSOS/New Zealand Doctors Speaking Out with Science”. Your request for this information is therefore refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

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.

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: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Turner', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sarah Turner

Deputy Director-General

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga