

[REDACTED]

Ref: H201806799

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Response to your request for official information**

I refer to your request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) of 5 October 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

*"How many requests for an interview have been received by the Ministry's media team in 2018. How many interview requests have been granted in 2018?"*

#### How many requests for an interview have been received by the Ministry's media team in 2018

It is estimated that the Ministry has responded to 1730 media requests so far this year - an average of 8 responses a day.

The Ministry cannot identify, however, how many requests for interviews it has received, because of the way the information is recorded and stored. For example, a verbal request for an interview may be recorded as a request for information. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the Ministry.

Where interview requests are not able to be accommodated, information or statements are routinely provided.

#### How many interview requests have been granted in 2018

As at 17 October 2018, 47 requests for interviews have been granted since 1 January 2018.

The Ministry endeavours to meet the needs of reporters where it can. Often media requests have short deadlines and the availability of spokespeople varies depending on other calls on their time.

The Ministry also proactively releases information through media, Twitter (15 tweets a week on average) and our website which is updated daily and records half a million visits each month.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Ministry's website.

Yours sincerely



Monique Burrows  
**Acting Director**  
**Office of the Director-General**