

2 December 2020

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202008389

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 22 November 2020 for information regarding face masks.

A response to each part of your request is outlined below.

- “1. risk assessments for blood levels of oxygen in mask wearing for anyone one day, one week, one month compared to normal*
- 2. risk assessment of carbon dioxide and consequent acidulation of blood for the same periods*
risk assessment of any other consequent issues e.g. oral health
- 3. a risk analysis of the raising of blood pressure due to lowered oxygen content and a projection of how this will affect people with high blood pressure eg what is their increased risk of a stroke”*

The information you have requested in parts one to three of your request does not exist and these parts of your request are therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

- “4. an analysis of the benefit of mask wearing in view of the research that indicates even surgical masks have no benefit and in fact exacerbate infection*
- 5. a complete breakdown and scientific explanation of why that scientific research is wrong and Hipkins right as you will no doubt expect given that valid scientific research requires that”*

You were previously advised by the Ministry (H202006982 refers), this information does not exist. Therefore, parts four and five of your request are again refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

Please note, exemptions from the use of face masks are available to those who have a disability or health condition may not be able to wear a face covering safely or comfortably. The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has developed a face covering exemption card for these individuals. Individuals who believe they need this Card can call Healthline for free on 0800 358 5453 for more information.

“an explanation why the increased oxygen solution used in theatre to counter masks is not provided in places that require masks eg aeroplanes”

“a guarantee as to whom will be financially responsible for any harm done in both. the psychological and physical areas preferably a signed acceptance from Hipkins and Ardern”

These parts of your request do not constitute a request for official information in accordance with section 2 of the Act. As such, we are unable to comment.

I note that you have previously asked for similar information. Please be aware that future requests for the same information may be refused under section 18(h) of the Act.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Allan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nick Allan
Manager OIA Services
Office of the Director-General