

[REDACTED]  
By email: [REDACTED]  
Ref: H202100059

Dear [REDACTED]

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 5 January 2021 for:

*"All records in the possession, custody or control of the Ministry of Health describing the inoculation of the isolated/purified vaccine on human host cells, the inoculated host cells then exposed to isolated/purified SARS-COV-2 virus, and then proof that the immunised cells resisted disease from the isolated/purified SARS-COV-2 virus.*

*Please note that I am using "isolation" in the every-day sense of the word: the act of separating a thing(s) from everything else. So the experiment must only apply isolated and purified vaccines and isolated and purified viruses to the human host cells. The experiment must not mix anything that would contaminate the results like Antibiotics, Antifungals, and Fetal Bovine Serum.*

*Please also note that my request is not limited to records that were authored by the Ministry of Health or that pertain to work done by the Ministry of Health. My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that the Ministry of Health has downloaded or printed.*

*If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it)"*

The Ministry of Health does not hold any information relating to your request. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry I have no reason to believe that this information is held by another agency subject to the Act. However, the below information may be of use to you.

There are several examples of the virus being isolated and cultured in a laboratory setting. One example provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes the isolation and culture of SARS-CoV-2. This information and research on SARS-CoV-2 can be found at the following link:

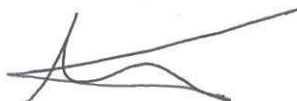
[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/6/20-0516\\_article](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/6/20-0516_article).

A research paper, Isolation and rapid sharing of the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) from the first patient diagnosed with COVID-19 in Australia, describes the first isolation and sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 in Australia. It is available at:  
[www.mja.com.au/journal/2020/212/10/isolation-and-rapid-sharing-2019-novel-coronavirus-sars-cov-2-first-patient](http://www.mja.com.au/journal/2020/212/10/isolation-and-rapid-sharing-2019-novel-coronavirus-sars-cov-2-first-patient).

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 Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Yours sincerely



Nick Allan  
**Manager, OIA Services**  
**Office of the Director-General**