

1 March 2021

[REDACTED]  
By email: [REDACTED]  
Ref: H202102074

Dear [REDACTED]

**Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 26 February 2021 for:

*"I would like to know if the SARS-Cov-2 PCR testing being conducted in New Zealand is qualitative or quantitative. Or, if it is some combination of the two, or has differed over time (since PCR testing for SARS-Cov-2 began in NZ), please elaborate on what the situation is."*

COVID-19 PCR testing conducted in New Zealand is qualitative in that it provides a yes/no result: COVID-19 is either detected (positive test result) or not (negative test result). No changes have been made since testing began in New Zealand.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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 of Health 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



Kelvin Watson

**Group Manager COVID-19 Immunisation, Testing and Supply  
COVID-19 Health System Response**