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7 July 2022

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202207772

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 (the Ministry) on 10 June 2022 regarding monkeypox. I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

*Please supply information from January 2020 to the current date:
All information and evidence associating/evidencing monkeypox as an airborne virus. This includes reports, reviews, information received by email, as reports or appendices.*

The Ministry has no evidence that Monkeypox is an airborne virus. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information request does not exist.

Protocols and processes for information communication and public testing that ensure that cases of monkeypox are not confused with early stage shingles/ varicella zoster virus family - either in clinical situations, by media or the general public.

The Ministry has published guidance on Monkeypox, which includes guidance on public testing. This is available here: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/monkeypox-mpx. Please also refer to a document published by the New Zealand Microbiology Network (NZMN) regarding monkeypox virus laboratory testing and recommendations. This is available here: www.nzmn.org.nz/

All information, reports, communications received by the Ministry detailing prospective or current orders of Monkeypox vaccines. This includes quantities and financial value of each vaccine brand that has been either quoted for or that a purchasing arrangement has been signed. Please include dates on all documents.

Pharmac is responsible for the purchasing of medicines. Therefore, the Ministry does not hold the information you have requested. We have been advised that the quotes and the quantities are not available as they are still under negotiation. We suggest that you contact Pharmac for any further questions regarding this aspect of your request.

All information, reports, communications received by the Ministry detailing prospective or current orders of RT-CPR or other testing kits for orthopoxviruses.

There is a publicly available document published by the NZMN regarding monkeypox virus laboratory testing and recommendations. This is available here: www.nzmn.org.nz/

All information/directives to New Zealand DHBs and IANZ accredited medical laboratories relating to serological testing for orthopoxviruses.

The Ministry does not hold this information. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information request does not exist.

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 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Graham Cameron
Acting Director
Public Health Agency