



23 April 2020



Reference: OIA-2019/20-0454 & OIA-2019/20-0464

Dear 

Official Information Act requests for data and evidence used in extensions of the National State of Emergency

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) requests, which were received on 8 April 2020 and 14 April 2020. You requested:

“Could you please provide, via email, all the data that was used to justify the extension of the National State of Emergency on the 7th of April 2020.”

AND

“Please provide all scientific evidence and data that was used to justify the Nationwide State of Emergency extension on the 14/04/2020.”

The decisions to extend the State of National Emergency (SONE) are made by the Minister of Civil Defence, Hon Peeni Henare, on the basis of briefing papers provided to him by the Director of Civil Defence Emergency Management. Those briefing papers have been made publicly available on the official Covid-19 website (<https://covid19.govt.nz/resources/key-documents-and-legislation/>) and on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC's) website (<https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/state-national-emergency-covid-19>).

You will note from these papers that any decision to extend a SONE is an exercise of discretionary statutory power, where it appears to the Minister that the relevant criteria in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 has been met. The facts and evidence underlying the Minister's decisions are set out in the briefing papers. Any other briefing papers that are prepared relating to extending this SONE will be made publicly available through the links given above. Accordingly, I am formally refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information you have requested is publicly available.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on DPMC's website during its regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Schwalger
Chief Executive, National Emergency Management Agency