



15 September 2021

[Redacted]

Ref: OIA-2021/22-0221

Dear [Redacted]

**Official Information Act request for proof of the isolation of SARS-CoV-2 Delta strain**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 4 September 2021. You requested:

- "1) Request 1 – Documentation proving isolation of the SarsCov2 Delta strain which is confirmed by means of a purified viral sample being imaged with an electron microscope.*
- 2) Request 2 - Documentation where the isolated SarsCovid2 Delta virus sample mentioned in request 1 is exposed to healthy humans or animals and shown to cause the disease Covid 19."*

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet does not hold the documentation that you have requested. We also do not believe that the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation. Accordingly, I am refusing your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

Further information regarding virus isolation is available on the Ministry of Health website: [www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/information-release/h202007836\\_18\\_nov\\_2020.pdf](http://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/information-release/h202007836_18_nov_2020.pdf).

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 the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our 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

[Redacted]

Cheryl Barnes  
**Deputy Chief Executive, COVID-19 Response**