



30 MAR 2021

Virginia Crawford  
[fyi-request-14809-204552ed@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14809-204552ed@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: PMO 2021-047

Dear Virginia Crawford

## Official Information Act request relating to Purchase of test kits in 2017

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 2 March 2021. You requested:

*"In 2017 New Zealand purchased 23,140 Kg of "test kits" with a total value of US\$92,221.86. Practically every country in the world also purchased these test kits. The product code was 300215. Could you please let me know:*

- 1. What the exact labelling was on these test kits?*
- 2. What was the rationale behind purchasing these test kits at that time?" I have been informed by the Ministry of Health that this information is not held by it or by any government department.*

[https://web.archive.org/web/20200905210427if\\_/https://wits.worldbank.org/trade/comtrade/en/country/ALL/year/2017/tradeflow/Imports/partner/WLD/nomen/h5/product/300215](https://web.archive.org/web/20200905210427if_/https://wits.worldbank.org/trade/comtrade/en/country/ALL/year/2017/tradeflow/Imports/partner/WLD/nomen/h5/product/300215)"

The website link you provided in your request identifies "COVID-19 Test Kits by Country in 2017." COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on 11 March 2020.

We note that you have already received a response from the Ministry of Health noting that they held no information in relation to your request.

The World Bank made a statement on the misinformation of the link you shared on their website here: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/statement/2020/09/08/statement-on-trade-data-related-to-covid-19-related-medical-supplies>.

Getting the right information about COVID-19 and our response matters as misinformation works against us at a time when we need to work together to beat the virus. You can always find accurate and timely information on the Unite against COVID-19 website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/>

I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either—

- i. held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority; or
- ii. connected more closely with the functions of another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation or of a local authority.

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

Yours sincerely



**Raj Nahna**  
**Chief of Staff**