

---

**From:** LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 April 2021 3:24 pm  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD)  
**Subject:** RE: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Owen

This analyses was done by MOH and MPI. UNHC is the lead division.

Cheers

JA

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <[Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Date:** Monday, 19 Apr 2021, 2:24 PM  
**To:** ESD <[DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD) <[Julie-Anne.Lee@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Julie-Anne.Lee@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Please assign to me.

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

**From:** ESD <[DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 April 2021 2:17 pm  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <[Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD) <[Julie-Anne.Lee@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Julie-Anne.Lee@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

[UNCLASSIFIED]

For assigning.

Salati (La) Liuvaie (she/her)  
Executive Services Coordinator  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

T s9(2)(a) E salati.liuvaie@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 19 April 2021 1:12 PM

To: ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Salati (La) Liuvaie (she/her)

Executive Services Coordinator

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

T s9(2)(a)

E salati.liuvaie@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: Harold <fyi-request-15210-3fb8ceb8@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Sent: Monday, 19 April 2021 11:31 AM

To: ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

Dear Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

I request copies of all analysis of the WHO Covid-19 origins report - either produced by MFAT or produced by another NZ government agency and shared with MFAT.

Yours faithfully,

Harold

-----  
This is an Official Information request made via the FYI website.

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:  
fyi-request-15210-3fb8ceb8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Is enquiries@mfat.govt.nz the wrong address for Official Information requests to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade? If so, please contact us using this form:

[https://fyi.org.nz/change\\_request/new?body=mfat](https://fyi.org.nz/change_request/new?body=mfat)

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If you find this service useful as an Official Information officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OIA or LGOIMA page.

---

**From:** RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 5:20 pm  
**To:** LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD)  
**Cc:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD); RGA; OCE; MEDIA; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC); GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG); RANGER, Peter (UNHC)  
**Subject:** RE: Tasking: Official Information request – Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Security Classification:**  
UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Julie-Anne,

UNHC's view is that this should be transferred to MOH, which leads on the relationship with WHO. While MFAT *might* have holdings which could fall within the scope, the analysis of the actual report itself was done by MOH and MPI, and both will most likely hold relevant information.

Peter Ranger will lead on any inputs for UNHC.

Cheers

**Mark Ramsden** (he/him)

**Divisional Manager**

United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E [mark.ramsden@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:mark.ramsden@mfat.govt.nz)

---

**From:** LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD) <Julie-Anne.Lee@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 5:05 PM  
**To:** GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>; RGA <RGA@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora koutou

Please find below an OIA request for analysis of the COVID-19 origins report.

Owen Thornber will manage this OIA for ESD. Please identify who can work with him on this response.

FYI, we anticipate that a transfer to MOH and/or MPI will be required, unless you advise otherwise.

Nga mihi  
Julie-Anne

**Julie-Anne Lee** (she/her)

Divisional Manager, Executive Services Division  
Ms9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: Harold <fyi-request-15210-3fb8ceb8@requests.fyi.org.nz>  
Sent: Monday, 19 April 2021 11:31 AM  
To: ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>  
Subject: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

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Yours faithfully,

Harold

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[https://fyi.org.nz/change\\_request/new?body=mfat](https://fyi.org.nz/change_request/new?body=mfat)

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:  
<https://fyi.org.nz/help/officers>

If you find this service useful as an Official Information officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OIA or LGOIMA page.

-----

---

**From:** ESD  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 April 2021 4:18 pm  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD)  
**Subject:** RE: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

**Security Classification:**  
UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Logged, [OIA 27407 Harold](#).

Salati (La) Liuvaie (she/her)  
Executive Services Coordinator  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

T<sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> E salati.liuvaie@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>  
Sent: Monday, 19 April 2021 1:12 PM  
To: ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>  
Subject: FW: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Salati (La) Liuvaie (she/her)  
Executive Services Coordinator  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

T<sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> E salati.liuvaie@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: Harold <fyi-request-15210-3fb8ceb8@requests.fyi.org.nz>  
Sent: Monday, 19 April 2021 11:31 AM  
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Subject: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

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Yours faithfully,

Harold

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Is [enquiries@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@mfat.govt.nz) the wrong address for Official Information requests to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade? If so, please contact us using this form:  
[https://fyi.org.nz/change\\_request/new?body=mfat](https://fyi.org.nz/change_request/new?body=mfat)

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If you find this service useful as an Official Information officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OIA or LGOIMA page.

Released under the  
Official Information Act

---

**From:** Official Information Act <Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 April 2021 11:03 am  
**To:** oiagr@health.govt.nz  
**Cc:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD); Official Information Act; Eve Lucinsky; Nicholas Gavey  
**Subject:** RE: Tasking: Official Information request – Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

Thanks Alisha.

Please get in touch with us if there is any information held by MPI that falls in scope of this request and we will be happy to facilitate the consultation.

Brenna.

**Official Information Act Team**

Government Services | Public Affairs

Ministry for Primary Industries | Charles Fergusson Building, 34-38 Bowen Street | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand

Telephone: 0800 00 83 33 | Email: Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz | Web: www.mpi.govt.nz

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**From:** OIA Requests <[oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 April 2021 12:20 PM  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <[Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)>; Official Information Act <[Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

Kia ora Owen

Health can take this one. Please note, our Global Health team have advised that we do not hold any information, as the analysis was all done verbally, not shared with MFAT and formed the joint statement that they understand has now been publicly released.

We will await the formal transfer.

Many thanks  
Alisha

**OIA Services**

Government Services

Office of the Director-General

Ministry of Health

E: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz)



---

**From:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <[Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 April 2021 5:17 pm  
**To:** OIA Requests <[oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz)>; Official Information Act <[Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz)>

Cc: Nick Allan <[Nick.Allan@health.govt.nz](mailto:Nick.Allan@health.govt.nz)>

Subject: FW: Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon,

MFAT has received this request through the FYI website. I have discussed this with our United Nations team and we thought we should discuss a transfer to MOH, which leads on the relationship with WHO. While MFAT *might* have holdings which could fall within the scope, the analysis of the actual report itself was done by MOH and MPI, and you both would most likely hold relevant information and are more closely connected to this.

Can you please confirm if you will accept this transfer.

I'm happy to discuss if needed.

Thanks

**Owen Thornber (he/him)**

**Unit Manager**

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E [Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)

-----Original Message-----

From: Harold <[fyi-request-15210-3fb8ceb8@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15210-3fb8ceb8@requests.fyi.org.nz)>

Sent: Monday, 19 April 2021 11:31 AM

To: ENQUIRIES <[enquiries@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@mfat.govt.nz)>

Subject: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

Dear Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

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Yours faithfully,

Harold

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Is [enquiries@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@mfat.govt.nz) the wrong address for Official Information requests to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade? If so, please contact us using this form:  
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---

Released under the Official Information Act

28 April 2021

Dr Ashley Bloomfield  
Director-General of Health and Chief Executive  
c/o: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz)

195 Lambton Quay  
Private Bag 18-901  
Wellington 6160  
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000  
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 27407

Tēnā koe Dr Ashley Bloomfield

We recently received the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 from Harold via the FYI website:

*"I request copies of all analysis of the WHO Covid-19 origins report - either produced by MFAT or produced by another NZ government agency and shared with MFAT."*

It appears that the information requested is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry of Health than with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Accordingly, we transfer this request to your Ministry under section 14 of the OIA.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie-Anne Lee  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

---

**From:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 11:28 am  
**To:** OIA Requests  
**Subject:** RE: Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report - Transfer to Health  
**Attachments:** RE: Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report; OIA 27407 Harold - Transfer to MoH.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Transferred to GDM  
**Security Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

**SharePointLocationUrl:** [http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA27407 Harold](http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA27407Harold)

**SharePointAbsoluteFileUrl:** [http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA27407 Harold/OIA 27407 - Transfer sent to MoH.msg](http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA27407Harold/OIA27407-Transfer-sent-to-MoH.msg)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Alisha, please see the transfer letters attached.

Thanks

**Owen Thornber (he/him)**

**Unit Manager**  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> E [Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)

---

**From:** OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 April 2021 12:20 pm  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>; Official Information Act <Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

Kia ora Owen

Health can take this one. Please note, our Global Health team have advised that we do not hold any information, as the analysis was all done verbally, not shared with MFAT and formed the joint statement that they understand has now been publicly released.

We will await the formal transfer.

Many thanks  
Alisha

**OIA Services**

Government Services  
Office of the Director-General  
Ministry of Health  
E: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz)



---

**From:** THORNER, Owen (ESD) <[Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 April 2021 5:17 pm  
**To:** OIA Requests <[oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz)>; Official Information Act <[Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Nick Allan <[Nick.Allan@health.govt.nz](mailto:Nick.Allan@health.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

**[UNCLASSIFIED]**

Good afternoon,

MFAT has received this request through the FYI website. I have discussed this with our United Nations team and we thought we should discuss a transfer to MOH, which leads on the relationship with WHO. While MFAT *might* have holdings which could fall within the scope, the analysis of the actual report itself was done by MOH and MPI, and you both would most likely hold relevant information and are more closely connected to this.

Can you please confirm if you will accept this transfer.

I'm happy to discuss if needed.

Thanks

**Owen Thornber (he/him)**

**Unit Manager**  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M<sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> E [Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)

-----Original Message-----

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**Sent:** Monday, 19 April 2021 11:31 AM  
**To:** ENQUIRIES <[enquiries@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@mfat.govt.nz)>  
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**From:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 May 2021 10:48 am  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD)  
**Subject:** FW: Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report  
**Attachments:** RE: Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report;  
RE: Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

**Categories:** New, Transferred to GDM  
**Security Classification:**

UNCLASSIFIED  
**SharePointLocationUrl:** <http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA27407Harold>

**SharePointAbsoluteFileUrl:** [http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA27407Harold/MoH advice on analysis.msg](http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA27407Harold/MoHadviceonanalysis.msg)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

See 27407

**Owen Thornber (he/him)**

**Unit Manager**  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E [Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)

---

**From:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 May 2021 9:10 am  
**To:** OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Tasking: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Alisha, I have a question, are you able to give me a quick call when you have a chance.

Thanks

**Owen Thornber (he/him)**

**Unit Manager**  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E [Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)

Duplicate email

---

**From:** ESD  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 June 2021 10:32 am  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD)  
**Subject:** RE: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report: Take Two

**Security Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

[OIA 27499](#)

Salati (La) Liuvaie (she/her)  
Executive Services Coordinator  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

T s9(2)(a) E salati.liuvaie@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>  
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 10:17 AM  
To: ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>  
Subject: FW: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report: Take Two

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Can you please log and assign to me. Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>  
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 10:28 am  
To: ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>  
Subject: RE: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report: Take Two

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Please log and assign to me. Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M<sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: THORNER, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>  
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 9:15 am  
To: THORNER, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>  
Subject: FW: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report: Take Two

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M<sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>  
Sent: Wednesday, 5 May 2021 8:55 am  
To: THORNER, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>  
Cc: LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD) <Julie-Anne.Lee@mfat.govt.nz>  
Subject: FW: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report: Take Two

[UNCLASSIFIED]

To assign.

Salati (La) Liuvaie (she/her)  
Executive Services Coordinator  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

T<sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> E salati.liuvaie@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>  
Sent: Wednesday, 5 May 2021 7:32 AM  
To: ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>  
Subject: FW: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report: Take Two

[UNCLASSIFIED]



Salati (La) Liuvaie (she/her)  
Executive Services Coordinator  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

T s9(2)(a) E salati.liuvaie@mfat.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: Harold <fyi-request-15351-6446e98d@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 4 May 2021 6:30 PM

To: ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report: Take Two

Dear Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

For the second time, I request copies of all analysis of the WHO Covid-19 origins report, produced by MFAT or on MFAT's behalf.

On April 1st, MFAT told Reuters:

"New Zealand acknowledges that member states have expressed a number of concerns. New Zealand wants to make sure we conduct an independent analysis to ensure we understand the science before making any comment"

and:

"Our scientific experts, who have been fully engaged with the wider COVID response, are analysing the report. When they have done so, we will decide on the most appropriate way to comment on the mission"

For the avoidance of doubt, this is the analysis I'm referring to. The Ministry of Health have told me they hold no such documents, so please don't refer me to them again.

Yours faithfully,

Harold

-----  
This is an Official Information request made via the FYI website.

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

fyi-request-15351-6446e98d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Is enquiries@mfat.govt.nz the wrong address for Official Information requests to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade? If so, please contact us using this form:

[https://fyi.org.nz/change\\_request/new?body=mfat](https://fyi.org.nz/change_request/new?body=mfat)

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:

<https://fyi.org.nz/help/officers>

If you find this service useful as an Official Information officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OIA or LGOIMA page.

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Released under the  
Official Information Act

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**From:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD)  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 June 2021 2:02 pm  
**To:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC)  
**Subject:** OIA requests - COVID-19 origins

**Security Classification:**  
UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hey Peter,

Here are OIAs you have regarding COVID-19 origins. I just popped up to see you, but your wfh this afternoon so I'll put some time in on Monday to discuss and get us clear on what our approach is.

1. OIA [27499](#) Harold (due 14 July, already extended)

*For the second time, I request copies of all analysis of the WHO Covid-19 origins report, produced by MFAT or on MFAT's behalf.*

*On April 1st, MFAT told Reuters:*

*"New Zealand acknowledges that member states have expressed a number of concerns. New Zealand wants to make sure we conduct an independent analysis to ensure we understand the science before making any comment"*

*and:*

*"Our scientific experts, who have been fully engaged with the wider COVID response, are analysing the report. When they have done so, we will decide on the most appropriate way to comment on the mission"*

*For the avoidance of doubt, this is the analysis I'm referring to. The Ministry of Health have told me they hold no such documents, so please don't refer me to them again.*

We [transferred](#) his first request (OIA [27407](#)) to MoH, and [extended](#) this current request to match [27419](#). We thought that while we didn't have any formal analysis that there might be information in scope of this request that he was interested in. I understand MoH refused his request says the analysis didn't exist. They [advised](#) their Global Health team have advised that we do not hold any information, as the analysis was all done verbally, not shared with MFAT and formed the joint statement that they understand has now been publicly released. The requestor has [emailed](#) us complaining about our extension but I wanted to have a talk to you once you were back from leave, before going back. I understand a lot of this happened verbally so maybe we can develop a narrative response to explain the situation and I think there is a key sub to Minister's which we could provide.

Out of scope

## Owen Thornber (he/him)

### Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E [Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)

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**From:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 June 2021 12:34 pm  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** seeking clarity on range of OIAs  
**Importance:** High

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Owen,

Hope all is well.

Julie-Anne's email below refers – it noted an OIA I was not aware had come back to us (27449) – I am not sure whether this was because I was on leave for a while recently and missed something, but it gave me a strong sense of needing some clarity of what is outstanding for us (I want to be sure I haven't missed anything else), and when we need to get it by. Out of scope

Grateful if ESD could give us a steer on what is still needed from us, and I will prioritise accordingly.  
Out of scope

Thanks in advance,

Cheers

### Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer

United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E [peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz)

Remainder of email is out of scope

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**From:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 June 2021 9:57 am  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD)  
**Subject:** FW: OIA requests - COVID-19 origins  
**Attachments:** Full covid origins report.pdf; Out of scope

**Categories:** OIA 3, Transferred to GDM  
**Security Classification:** RESTRICTED

**SharePointLocationUrl:** <http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA27499Harold>

**SharePointAbsoluteFileUrl:** <http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA27499Harold/COVID-19originsreport.msg>

[RESTRICTED]

FYI

**Peter Ranger**

Foreign Policy Officer  
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E [peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz)

---

**From:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC)  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 June 2021 12:02 pm  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: OIA requests - COVID-19 origins

Hi Owen,

Thanks so much for this – this is amazing.

On the first OIA

- The only raw “analysis” of the origins report from MFAT that I am aware of, is my reading of the report, where I simply read the entire report, and made highlights as I went, and a few comments in the margins ([attached](#) is this document). As MFAT are not the technical experts, I read this to be able to participate in an informed manner when the discussion was held verbally as MOH described. I am not sure the document itself would be of interest to the requestor, but if this falls in scope, it would be simply a matter of looking to redact my own comments in the margins (everything else is public information).
- There is a key sub to the Ministers we could provide – in fact, this same submission has been requested by Out of scope – and I have begun redacting it.

On the other two

- There is a lot in here, and it might be worth having a chat. In particular, on how to deal with what is a large amount of overlapping information.

Cheers

**Peter Ranger**

Foreign Policy Officer  
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E [peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz)

---

**From:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <[Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Friday, 18 June 2021 2:02 pm

**To:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <[Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** OIA requests - COVID-19 origins

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hey Peter,

Here are OIAs you have regarding COVID-19 origins. I just popped up to see you, but your wfh this afternoon so I'll put some time in on Monday to discuss and get us clear on what our approach is.

1. OIA [27499](#) Harold (due 14 July, already extended)

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*and:*

*"Our scientific experts, who have been fully engaged with the wider COVID response, are analysing the report. When they have done so, we will decide on the most appropriate way to comment on the mission"*

*For the avoidance of doubt, this is the analysis I'm referring to. The Ministry of Health have told me they hold no such documents, so please don't refer me to them again.*

We [transferred](#) his first request (OIA [27407](#)) to MoH, and [extended](#) this current request to match [27419](#). We thought that while we didn't have any formal analysis that there might be information in scope of this request that he was interested in. I understand MoH refused his request says the analysis didn't exist. They [advised](#) their Global Health team have advised that we do not hold any information, as the analysis was all done verbally, not shared with MFAT and formed the joint statement that they understand has now been publicly released. The requestor has [emailed](#) us complaining about our extension but I wanted to have a talk to you once you were back from leave, before going back. I understand a lot of this happened verbally so maybe we can develop a narrative response to explain the situation and I think there is a key sub to Minister's which we could provide.

Duplicate email

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**From:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD)  
**Sent:** Monday, 5 July 2021 12:35 pm  
**To:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA Request - Tasking

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** OIA 3  
**Security Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Our current due date is 14 July for:

1. OIA 27499 Harold (due 14 July, already extended)  
Out of scope

Happy to discuss.

**Owen Thornber** (he/him)

**Unit Manager**  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

**M** s9(2)(a) **E** [Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)

Remainder of email is out of scope

Released under the  
Official Information Act

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**From:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC)  
**Sent:** Monday, 5 July 2021 12:56 pm  
**To:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD); BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC)  
**Subject:** RE: Preliminary enquiries - Shine - 554126 - your ref: OIA 27499

**Categories:** OIA 3  
**Security Classification:** RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Owen,

Thanks for your email.

First, a status update on where this one is at: I have gathered together the information that will fall in scope of Harold's request and provided redactions (I have sent this for internal consultation – following that it will receive external consultation). Contrary to the draft reply, the request **does** contain a formal analysis of the report (in the form of a ministerial submission). The technical analysis contained within this submission was informed by MPI and MOH, however the submission did come from MFAT and is addressed to MFA. Therefore I don't think we can say "The Ministry has completed no formal analysis of this report" or "While no formal analysis is contained".

The key reason why it will need to take until at least 14 July to provide the information to Harold, is that there are a number of OIAs on the same topic (Out of scope is very wide in scope and includes every document also in the Harold one) and there was insufficient resourcing to do the necessary work before the original deadline (hence the need for an extension). The OIA's on the origins topic also require a number of parties to review redactions (AMER / NAD / MOH / MPI) as all have equities in the topic s9(2)(g)(i)

Regarding early release of some information, the submission I refer to above that contains analysis, has also been requested by s9(2)(a). We have handed this back to ESD, so am not sure about where that is, but this is the pivotal document of analysis and if it has been given to Sam, would it also be able to be given to Harold?

s9(2)(g)(i)

. It will be in both the s9(2)(a) and Harold requests (although heavily redacted).

Happy to discuss,

Cheers

**Peter Ranger**

Foreign Policy Officer  
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E [peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz)

---

**From:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 5 July 2021 12:31 pm



**To:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

**Subject:** FW: Preliminary enquiries - Shine - 554126 - your ref: OIA 27499

**[IN CONFIDENCE]**

Good morning,

MFAT received this preliminary enquiry from the Office of the Ombudsman asking out our decision to extend the deadline to Harold.

I have drafted a short response and would be grateful for any feedback before sending it back to the Ombudsman this week.

Thanks

**Owen Thornber (he/him)**

**Unit Manager**

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E [Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)

Out of scope

Released under the  
Official Information Act