

13 May 2024

File Ref: 240402

Erika Whittome

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Dear Erika

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 9 May 2024. You requested:

- *The working relationship between WorkSafe and the MoH in the year 2024*
- *Any memorandums of understanding between the two agencies*
- *How there has been designation of powers to the MoH to authorise MoH to regulate workplaces*
- *How WorkSafe is working together with the MoH on the list of recognised workplace diseases that arise out of the nature of the work taking place in 2024? I note the date of this MoH publication is 16 March 2024.*

I have decided to decline your request under Section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as no documents exist that contain the information you have requested.

However, I provide answers to each of your questions below:

1. WorkSafe has a typical cross-government working relationship with the Ministry of Health. We work with them on a case-by-case basis as topics of mutual interest arise and resources allow. An example of joint work with the Ministry is preventing harm to workers exposed to silica dust (see [Government and specialist health response | WorkSafe](#)).
2. There is no memorandum of understanding between WorkSafe and the Ministry of Health.
3. WorkSafe is the primary work health and safety regulator. No powers under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) have been designated to the Ministry of Health.
4. WorkSafe is not aware of "a list of recognised workplace diseases that arise out of the nature of the work taking place in 2024". The link in your question takes you to the Ministry of Health's general guidance about infectious disease prevention in the workplace.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision, and further information is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you require further assistance, please contact ministerial.services@worksafe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Braden Sloper
Head of Strategy and Policy