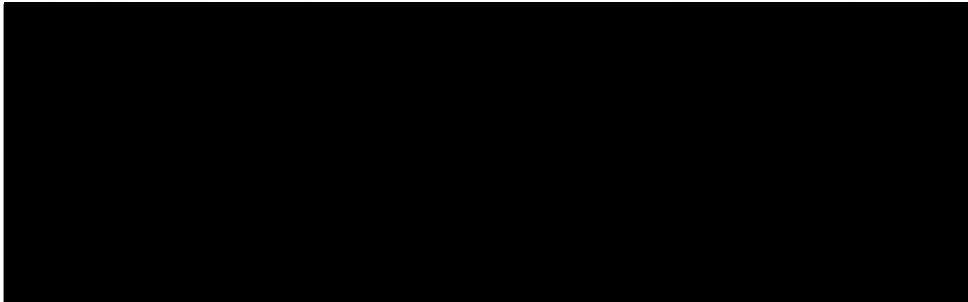


15 April 2021



Re: Official Information Act request – Covid case of 24 year old border worker

I refer to your Official Information Act (OIA) request dated 11 April 2021 to the Ministry of Health (MoH), and transferred from the MoH to Auckland DHB on 13 April 2021. You requested the following information:

Today we are requesting for all communications between the Ministry of Health, or any other relevant agency, and the most recently announced community case of COVID-19 — a 24 year old border worker who works as a security officer at the Grand Millennium.

Specifically, the communications between both parties regarding public locations visited while the case was potentially infectious with the SARS-CoV-2 virus.”

I am responding from Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) as the DHB responsible for Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS). ARPHS leads the case management and contact tracing for the three metro Auckland district health boards.

It is acknowledged whilst there may be a public interest in being able to understand certain aspects of the response to the pandemic, there is an even greater interest in ensuring people feel comfortable in sharing information with public health units. It is ARPHS' position that the routine release of these communications may have the serious consequence of people not being open and honest about their movements, thus prejudicing the timely provision of information vital to the public health response and to ensuring the possibility of exposure of others during the individual's infectious period is managed effectively and efficiently.

Accordingly, your request is declined under OIA s9(2) (ba) – to protect information ... which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information—

- (i) would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or
- (ii) would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest;

And OAI S9(2)(c) – to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public;

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)