



MP for Mana

Minister of Broadcasting, Communications
and Digital Media

Minister for Government Digital Services

Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Associate Minister of Housing (Public Housing)

OIA 19-139

Sue Grey

Email: fyi-request-11413-bd06024d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Sue,

Thank you for your email of 8 October 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"Can you please provide information to show:

- A. *the maximum permitted RFEMR exposure limit in NZ in microwatts/cm²*
- B. *how limit is NZ is justified and considered safe for New Zealanders considering the far stricter limits in many other countries for example:*
 - *China 10 microwatts/cm²*
 - *Russia 10 microwatts/cm²*
 - *Italy 10 microwatts/cm²*
 - *France 10 microwatts/cm²*
 - *Poland 10 microwatts/cm²*
 - *Hungary 10 microwatts/cm²*
 - *Switzerland General 9.5 microwatts/cm²*
 - *Switzerland Schools and Hospitals 4.25 microwatts/cm²*
 - *Belgium 2.4 microwatts/cm²*
 - *Bulgaria 2.4 microwatts/cm²*
- C. *any evidence to show New Zealanders including pregnant women, children and foetuses are more resilient to RFEMR than the citizens of the states listed above*
- D. *any information to show remedies and or compensation available for NZers who suffer harm from or attributable in part to RFEMR*
- E. *any information to show what if any insurance cover is available to individual NZers and or to the NZ government for harm from RFEMR*
- F. *information to show the cost of the rollout of fibre optic cable in NZ and the benefits of that for NZers;*
- G. *given the investment in fibre optic cable, why we now need 5G"*

Parts C, D and E of your request were subsequently transferred to the Ministry of Health for their response. Parts A and B were transferred to the Ministry for the Environment for their response.

I will address the remainder of your request.

The total government investment in the Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) rollout is around \$1.8 billion. More information on this programme can be found on the Ministry for

Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) websites:

- www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/it-communications-and-broadband/fast-broadband/broadband-and-mobile-programmes/
- www.crowninfrastructure.govt.nz/ufb/what/

Optic fibre and fast broadband connectivity, in general have been one of the most critical enablers of the digital economy and society. 5G is a technology that has the potential to take the government's investment in connectivity significantly further.

I see 5G as a huge opportunity for New Zealand, as digital connectivity is a key enabler of job creation and improvements to quality of life. It is also important that New Zealand supports innovation and keeps pace with technological change across the world.

5G is vital to provide improved wireless communication in terms of quality of communications (speed and capacity) and coverage. 5G is also more energy-efficient than previous mobile technologies. Because of its potential benefits, all over the world, the information and telecommunication sectors (manufacturers, telecommunications operators and research institutions) are developing equipment and services that use 5G technologies to improve the way we live and work. For example, advancing telemedicine techniques that improve health outcomes for patients; and automated industrial processes that could drastically reduce accidents, reduce carbon emissions and traffic congestion.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman has an online complaints form at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/make-a-complaint/make-a-complaint-now/make-a-complaint-online-now>. A complaint can also be made by e-mail at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by post at:

The Ombudsman
PO Box 10 152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely,



Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media