

Office of the Prime Minister



Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

18 MAY 2020

Mike Patrick

By email: fyi-request-12831-d07ca3ad@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2020-090

Dear Mike Patrick

Official Information Act request relating to COVID-19 modelling received by the Prime Minister

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 12 May 2020. You requested:

"In introducing NZ to the "lockdown" and various alert levels in some of your early public statements you referred repeatedly to modelling and other information that showed there was a threat that tens of thousands of new Zealanders would die. You used this as the justification for introducing the various changes and restrictions that NZ has and is still dealing with.

I would like to request under the OIA copies of the specific modelling that gave rise to this public statement and any other specific information that you specifically based the "tens of thousands of New Zealanders could die" statement on."

The Government has proactively released a significant volume of information related to decisions made on COVID-19, which you can find at the following address (<https://covid19.govt.nz/resources/key-documents-and-legislation/proactive-release/>). Further information relating to Government decision-making on COVID-19 will also be released on a regular publication cycle going forward.

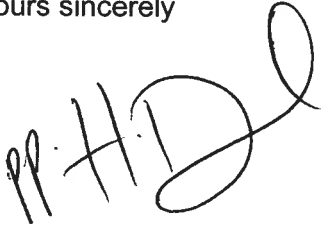
The Ministry of Health has also proactively released information relating to modelling done in relation to COVID-19, which you can find at the following address (<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-modelling-and-other-commissioned-reports>).

As the above has been released, for the purposes of the Act, I must refuse your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is already publicly available, or soon will be.

I trust you find this information useful.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raj Nahna', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff