

12 August 2021

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T. Baker

By email: [fyi-request-15967-ca701f3e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15967-ca701f3e@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202108894

Tēnā koe T. Baker

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 21 July 2021 relating to your previous request provided to you on the same date. (H202108049 refers). Regarding PCR tests, you specifically asked:

*Does the government fund the District Health Boards [DHBs] for PCR tests, and if so, how much per test?*

The DHBs receive funding for collection of the swabs (\$75 per swab) and the government also pays for the performance of the test by the labs (\$63 per test result).

*Please clarify which laboratory is contracted to provide PCR test services, and when this contract was 1) Initially tendered, and 2) Executed/signed.*

As referred to in the letter of 21 July, the Ministry has only one contract associated with testing of saliva samples for COVID-19. The details of this can be found in that letter.

Individual DHBs contract with different laboratories to undertake pathology services, including PCR testing. The Ministry does not hold information about these contracts. For further information about these contracts, you may wish to contact the DHBs. Their contact details can be found: [www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/district-health-boards/district-health-board-websites](http://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/district-health-boards/district-health-board-websites).

*Does the cost per test reduce to \$63/test on 1 October 2021? (Sep 2020 and Oct 2021 are mentioned, I think one of the dates is an error).*

There was no error, the cost per test reduced from \$70 per test to \$63 per test in October 2020.

*Regarding the Provisional Consent documents, Pfizer has released information relating to both Conditions 52 and 54. .... When does the Ministry anticipate receiving reports in relation to this? I expect the Ministry is fully aware of the work that Pfizer is undertaking in this regard.*

I am advised that Medsafe has been in communication with regards to the study referenced and their requirement under the conditions on provisional consent for the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine. Medsafe expects to receive the relevant report before the end of August 2021.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Darryl Carpenter', written over a horizontal line.

Darryl Carpenter  
**Group Manager, COVID-19 Testing and Supply**  
**COVID-19 Health System Response**