

4 March 2022

Sarah Matahiwi

By email: fvi-request-18580-fa9d6b03@requests.fvi.org.nz
Ref: H202201552

Tēnā koe Sarah

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) received on 16 February 2022. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

Please provide the number of cases that have been genomically and/or epidemiologically linked to DJ Dimension (Robert Etheridge), either directly or indirectly.

The Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) found that there were no cases genomically linked to Robert Etheridge.

Separately, please provide the number of cases in the Soundsplash festival cluster and in any other clusters or sub-clusters resulting from this festival.

As at 16 February 2022, the date of your request, there are 40 known cases in the Soundsplash cluster in the National Contact Tracing Solution (specific to attendees). However, since 30 January 2022, Auckland Regional Public Health Service have stopped adding cases to Omicron clusters. According to ESR, sub-clusters from Soundsplash were also not recorded.

Through Whole Genome Sequencing there are now 339 community cases with the Omicron variant BA.2 as at 28 February 2022. These cases include onward transmission from the Soundsplash festival outbreak (OB-22-110066-AK). It is not clear whether these cases represent a single border incursion or multiple introductions from very closely related Omicron variant BA.2 cases in managed isolation and quarantine.

I trust this fulfils your request. 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 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes.

Dom Harris
**Manager – Office of the Deputy Chief Executive
COVID-19 Health System Response**