

19 August 2022

Chris Furlong  
fyi-request-20001-4cc6fcf8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Chris,

**Your Official Information Act request, reference H2022008413:**

Thank you for your email of 24 July 2022 requesting information relating to Monkeypox.

As part of the transformation of the health and disability system, as of 1 July 2022 part of the functions previously under the Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) COVID-19 Health System Response directorate have now transferred to Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand. As the matters you have raised now fall under the functions of Te Whatu Ora, our agency will respond to your request which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I shall quote and respond to each part of your request below.

*Please provide any documents that refer to:*

- 1. Contact tracing strategy for MPX in Aotearoa NZ. This would include, but is not limited to: contact tracing IT infrastructure planning; MPX contact tracing approach (ie national vs district/local); equity, cultural, and privacy strategy (given effective contact tracing for monkeypox requires high trust).*
- 2. Any planning and discussion regarding a long-term surveillance strategy for MPX, if community transmission occurs.*

No documents have been identified within scope of your request; as such, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

Noting Aotearoa's controlled cases at present, case tracing and case investigation for Monkeypox is currently led through local public health units (PHUs) with Medical Officers of Health. The National Investigation and Tracing Centre and Public Health Operations Group within Te Whatu Ora will continue to support PHUs where appropriate, to enable a local response.

Case definitions and guidance for managing Monkeypox cases and contacts is available publicly on the Manatū Hauora website here: [www.health.govt.nz/publication/communicable-disease-control-manual](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/communicable-disease-control-manual). It is important to note that this is the interim advice and will be consistently reviewed to ensure to is up to date.

At present, surveillance of Monkeypox is monitored daily. The Public Health Agency (PHA) in Manatū Hauora provide daily updates on global and national surveillance to a Monkeypox Operational Group led by Te Whatu Ora.

Manatū Hauora continues to liaise with Environmental Science and Research (ESR) on investigating how wastewater testing could be utilised for Monkeypox, should it be required.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. You are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may decide to proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MH' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Matt Hannant

**Interim Director Outbreak Response**

**National Public Health Service**