

9 December 2024

Maria Lucento

By email: [fyi-request-29433-f38262bc@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29433-f38262bc@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Maria

I refer to your information request dated 3 December 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*I am requesting under the OIA any documents held by Otago University that relate to the request:*

<https://apc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffyi.org.nz%2Frequest%2F29068-infrastructure-built-using-genomics-aotearoa-funding%23comment-6786&data=05%7C02%7Coia%4Ootago.ac.nz%7C060d691dfb234576c1bc08dd134e98e1%7C0225efc578fe4928b1579ef24809e9ba%7C0%7C0%7C638687950505748624%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiilwLjAuMDAwMClslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOLjoiTWVpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C&sdata=bwp82jDaKFKDSngPgS24NGGNfqlk2kLGjwcrPn9oJhl%3D&reserved=0>

The request to which this refers was as follows:

*Under the Official Information Act, I request any documents (including but not limited to: press releases, reports, emails, and digital presentations) having to do with infrastructure built with funding provided by MBIE to Genomics Aotearoa that meets either the Infrastructure Commission's or the Treasury's description of infrastructure above.*

The University of Otago's response to your request follows.

As previously advised, Genomics Aotearoa is an alliance of ten university and Crown Research Institute partners, including the University of Otago, providing a collaborative research platform for genomics and bioinformatics. Genomics Aotearoa receives funding from the Strategic Science Investment Fund (SSIF) managed by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), as an 'infrastructure' platform.

We have noted the definitions of 'infrastructure' you have provided from the New Zealand Treasury and the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission. We note 'infrastructure' in the context of the *Strategic Science Investment Fund Investment Plan 2017-2024* is defined as:

*'Funding for national research infrastructure platforms that provide access to research technology, facilities, infrastructure, Nationally Significant Collections and Databases, and associated support services.'* (at page 6).

The *Strategic Science Investment Fund Investment Plan 2017-2024* plan is publicly available here: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/436ecb3be9/strategic-science-investment-fund-investment-plan.pdf>. Information regarding the activity of Genomics Aotearoa which corresponds to this definition is publicly available here: <https://www.genomics-aotearoa.org.nz/>

Genomics Aotearoa has not been contracted to provide infrastructure under the two specific definitions you have provided, and as a result the University holds no documents relating to Genomics Aotearoa's development of research infrastructure based on those specific definitions.

Accordingly, we decline your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the University. We do however hope the information above is useful.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Frewen', written in a cursive style.

Bill Frewen  
Manager Policy and Compliance