

133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

20 May 2026

J Bruning

By email: fyi-request-34525-80be7118@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2026081843

Tēnā koe J Bruning

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 – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 21 April 2026 for information regarding the health effects of Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields. Please find a response to each part of your request below:

[1] Committee membership and expertise. Please provide the names of individuals currently serving on the Committee, including their agency/affiliation for the years 2025 and 2026.

Please see the list below of the Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Ionising Fields (the Committee):

February 2026

Members

- Richard Jaine (Ministry of Health – Chair)
- Jo Dones (Health New Zealand)
- Martin Gledhill (Health New Zealand – Acting Secretary)
- Jesse Beatty-Ward (Ministry of Education)
- Matthew Kaira (Ministry of Education)
- Adam Tommy (Kordia)
- Nick Gelling (Consumer NZ)
- Jon Rolfe (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment)
- Mervyn Frericks (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment)
- Nicholas Sanders (Ministry for the Environment)
- Kurt George (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment)
- Laura Johnstone (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment)
- Hayley Head (EEA NZ)
- Mihin Perera (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment)
- Mathew Reid (Health New Zealand)
- Victor Ostapomicz (WorkSafe NZ)

- Paul Molloy (WorkSafe NZ)
- Ben Blakemore (Telecommunications Carriers Forum)
- John Dockerty (University of Otago)
- Matthew Walker (Transpower New Zealand Ltd)
- Isobel Stout (Local government)
- Andreas Markwitz (Ministry of Health)
- Tim Hopley (Health New Zealand)
- Jo Pugh (Health New Zealand)

Observers

- Ken Karipidis (observer - ARPANSA),
- Sarah Loughran (observer – ARPANSA)

You may be interested in the Committee's Terms of Reference which is publicly available through the following link: www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2022-06/interagency-committee-health-effects-non-ionising-fields-report-ministers-2022-jun22.pdf. Please refer to Appendix G.

[2] Expertise in risk assessment and evidence evaluation

Please confirm which Committee members have expertise in:

- a) methods-based risk assessment,*
- b) toxicological evaluation, and/or*
- c) systematic review or analysis of non-ionising RF-EMF.*

Where applicable, please provide relevant publications or study references demonstrating this expertise.

Please refer to the response to question 1 which provides a list of current Committee members, as well as the Terms of Reference. This list includes academics, technical experts and public health specialists with expertise in assessing and reviewing research. It is also noted that the Committee does not have a role in conducting reviews; its role is to examine the conclusions from reviews and research, and whether those conclusions may impact the policy, guidelines or advice from relevant agencies in New Zealand.

[3] Participants beyond formal Committee membership

Please provide the distribution list for invited meeting participants beyond formal Committee members. Personal details for individuals in the private sector may be redacted where appropriate.

Please refer to the Committee list provided in response to question 1. It is noted that it includes two observers from the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA).

[4] Evaluation of studies referenced in OIA response H2025077086

A recent response from the Public Health Agency (OIA request H2025077086) provided a list of studies and papers. However, the response did not indicate whether these studies had undergone independent, scientifically robust evaluation by New Zealand public sector academics or officials during the period 2000–2025.

The response also stated that no health risk assessments have been undertaken by the Ministry or by Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora. This raises concern regarding the basis on which conclusions are being drawn, particularly in light of ongoing scientific

discussion regarding dose–response relationships and potential biological effects at exposure levels below those currently reflected in New Zealand guidance.

For reference:

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffyi.org.nz%2Frequest%2F33289%2Fresponse%2F138163%2Fattach%2F6%2FH2025077086%2520response.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Coiagr%40health.govt.nz%7C0a024e0800d0496c800608de9f744aee%7C23cec7246d204bd19fe9dc4447edd1fa%7C0%7C0%7C639123519025025788%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zyn5nkojNPmod%2FwyyocrLXuBJQj4erIUeWXkYG59%2BZXw%3D&reserved=0>

The response does not identify the individual(s) who compiled the list of studies, nor those who evaluated them to support the conclusions presented. It is therefore unclear who has undertaken the scientific assessment of this evidence.

All the abstracts provided in OIA response H2025077086 are from expert reports and from peer-reviewed research articles. As previously noted in response to question 2, the Committee does not have a role in conducting reviews; rather its role is to consider all the articles and reports as a whole and consider whether the body of evidence may impact the policies, guidelines and advice in New Zealand.

For each reference listed in the H2025077086 response, please provide:

- a) the individual or organisation that supplied the study to the Committee, and*
- b) the name of the person(s) who evaluated the study.*

The majority of expert reports and research articles that are presented to the Committee are identified and compiled by John Dockerty and Martin Gledhill. However, all Committee members are able to table any relevant research at Committee meetings. All abstracts are provided to the Committee prior to the meeting and then discussed individually at the meeting, where all Committee members have the chance to consider the research and discuss.

[5] Authorship of Committee reports.

The 2022 Committee report does not identify individual authors.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2022-06/interagency-committee-health-effects-non-ionising-fields-report-ministers-2022-jun22.pdf>

Please:

- a) list the primary authors of the report, or*
- b) provide details of the individuals responsible for drafting specific sections or chapters.*

The purpose of the Committee's report to Ministers is to highlight key findings from comprehensive reviews undertaken in recent years by national and international health and scientific bodies, illustrated in places by examples from individual studies that are of interest or exemplify work carried out in particular areas. As noted in the Introduction, the

"Report to Ministers is not intended to be an exhaustive or systematic review of recent research. A steady stream of such reviews comes from expert panels appointed by health agencies in other countries, and by international bodies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Union's Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks. Rather than taking that approach, this Report to Ministers summarises the principal findings of these overseas reviews, concentrating on those published within the past 10 years but also referring back to important older publications that are still valid (eg, the WHO's 2007 review of ELF fields:

www.who.int/publications/m/item/2007-who-research-agenda-for-extremely-low-frequency-fields). Some key individual scientific papers are also discussed where they help to illustrate the research and the types of approach being followed to improve our knowledge.”

The report is owned and endorsed by the Committee.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Corina Grey
Director of Public Health
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui