

24 August 2020

Wendy McGuinness

By email: [wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org)  
Ref: H202005454

Dear Wendy McGuinness

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 23 July 2020 to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for information following on from your previous request for information (H202005454 refers).

I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

*1. Can you advise when the MoH webpage that records the composition of the NRS will be updated? Your response to the previous OIA stated that 'the page on National Reserve Supply (NRS) is being reviewed and will be updated by the end of May 2020'. Furthermore, can you explain why this has been delayed?*

The Ministry endeavours to regularly update this webpage; however, there have been delays to this process as a result of the Ministry's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This web page will be updated by the end of August.

*2. Are there any standards and/or regulations in place for those purchasing and/or manufacturing PPE in New Zealand? If applicable, please direct us to the standards and/or regulations for PPE that have been adopted when procuring PPE? In addition, are DHBs and the MoH required to meet these standards when procuring PPE?*

A range of standards are in place for purchasing and manufacturing personal protective equipment (PPE) in New Zealand. PPE manufactured in New Zealand is generally made to meet the standards, which are outlined at the following address: [https://www.standards.org.au/getmedia/4d7449e3-ee13-4b54-8f01-4347638010e6/D\\_1588-Standards-and-COVID-19-\(002\).pdf.aspx](https://www.standards.org.au/getmedia/4d7449e3-ee13-4b54-8f01-4347638010e6/D_1588-Standards-and-COVID-19-(002).pdf.aspx) . For your information, PPE that meets other international standards is also acceptable for use in New Zealand. Further information on the relevant Australian and New Zealand PPE standards can be found at; <https://www.standards.govt.nz/> . DHBs have a requirement to ensure compliant PPE is available for use by their staff as non-compliant PPE does not provide the right protections.

*3. In addition to PPE, are there standards for the contents of hand sanitiser? We have been advised there are products currently on the market that are listed as having antibacterial properties, but do not contain the necessary chemicals to destroy the coronavirus.*

Hand sanitisers for use by the public are not regulated by the Medicines Act 1981, or by any other legislation managed by the Ministry. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has oversight of the contents of hand sanitiser available for purchase by the general public. Guidance around the legal obligations of manufacturing hand sanitiser can be found at the following address: <https://www.epa.govt.nz/news-and-alerts/alerts/make-sure-your-hand-sanitising-product-is-legal-in-new-zealand/>. You may wish to request further information regarding general use of hand sanitisers from the EPA.

Hand sanitisers for use in health care facilities are regarded as medicines under the Medicines Act 1981 and are required to be assessed and approved for use by the New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority (Medsafe), a business unit of the Ministry. Hand sanitisers for use in clinical environments need to contain active ingredients that are safe and effective when used according to the label directions and meet acceptable quality standards. The formulation needs to be tested against international standards for demonstrating the in-vivo and in-vitro effectiveness of hand rubs, such as the European Standards EN1500 and EN13727. They must meet international quality guidelines for batch testing (ingredients and finished product batches) and stability. All medicines approved for use in New Zealand must meet national regulations for labelling and be manufactured in a facility that holds Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certification from Medsafe or an overseas medicines regulator that is recognised by Medsafe for this purpose.

4. *If there are standards, has an audit been undertaken of all existing inventory against those standards for inventory held (i) by the MoH and (ii) by each DHB? If yes, can you please provide a copy of the audit results? If no, can you advise why this was not deemed necessary?*

A formal audit of PPE against the standards outlined in response to part two of your request has not been undertaken. The procurement process for PPE includes a process to ensure PPE meets an applicable standard, however the Ministry is aware that internationally there has been a rise in non-compliant PPE. To provide an added level of assurance, all PPE procured by the Ministry has the certificates and test reports checked against the standards required for the PPE.

5. *Please advise whether there is an updated pandemic plan, or whether the government is looking to update the 2017 New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan A framework for action?*

In April 2020, the Ministry published the 'Covid-19 Health and Disability System Response Plan', which established a framework to prepare for and manage the national response to the outbreak of COVID-19 in New Zealand. The plan can be found at the following address; <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-health-and-disability-system-response-plan>.

The Ministry is looking to update the 'New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan: A framework for action (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)' in due course.

6. *Can we please have a breakdown of PPE purchased by MoH from New Zealand manufacturers by (i) type of PPE and (ii) name of manufacturer since January 2020 to 30 July 2020?*

Between January 2020 and July 2020, it was only possible for the Ministry to source PPE from two local manufacturers, QSI who produced P2 and Procedure masks, and Lake Products who produced face shields.

Due to the inability of these two manufacturers and other New Zealand manufacturers to meet the demand and address raw material constraints and timing of delivery, the Ministry had to source PPE from overseas manufacturers.



7. What amount and type of PPE was acquired by the MoH from the group mentioned in this article(see link here) (i.e. Graeme Hart, Sir Stephen Tindall, Craig Heatley, Nick Mowbray and Sam Morgan)? Can you also provide the costs and timing of the procurement? Lastly, can you please confirm whether the PPE was acquired at cost from overseas sources (as specified in the article linked above)?

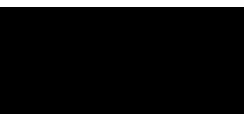
The items outlined in table one below were secured from Zuru and the Warehouse Group. The group undertook their purchases of PPE in late March/early April with the first planes landing on 5 April 2020. The products were secured by these groups and sold back to the government. The total unit cost to the Ministry, excluding freight was approximately \$34 million (excluding GST).

| <b>Table One: PPE Equipment sourced from overseas suppliers</b> |                     |              |
|---|---------------------|--------------|
| <b>PPE Equipment</b>  | <b>Providers</b>    | <b>Units</b> |
| N95 Mask (or equivalent)  | Zuru                | 50,400       |
| Procedure Mask (or equivalent)                                  | Zuru                | 2,482,500    |
| Face shield (or equivalent)                                     | Zuru                | 30,000       |
| Isolation Gown (or equivalent)                                  | Zuru                | 50,000       |
| Detergent Wipe Packets (or equivalent)                          | Zuru                | 139,000      |
| Hand Sanitiser (2L bottle)                                      | Zuru                | 50,004       |
| Hand Sanitiser (500mL equivalents)                              | Zuru                | 200,016      |
| Detergent Wipe Packets (or equivalent)                          | Zuru                | 400,008      |
| Goggles (anti mist or equivalent)                               | Zuru                | 100,000      |
| Goggles (anti mist or equivalent)                               | Zuru                | 650,000      |
| Hand Sanitiser (2L bottle)                                      | Zuru                | 100,008      |
| Isolation Gown (or equivalent)                                  | Zuru                | 693,300      |
| Isolation Gown (or equivalent)                                  | Zuru                | 106,700      |
| Procedure Mask (or equivalent)                                  | Zuru                | 40,000,000   |
| Isolation Gown (or equivalent)                                  | Zuru                | 1,299,000    |
| Isolation Gown (or equivalent)                                  | Zuru                | 1,000,000    |
| N95 Mask (or equivalent)  | The Warehouse Group | 100,000      |

I trust this information 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.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely




**Director  
COVID-19 Health System Response**