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17 July 2024

Wendy McGuinness

By email: wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org

Ref: H2024045783

Tēnā koe Wendy

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 8 July 2024. Each part of your request is responded to below:

Q1: Can you let us know who activated QSi to start producing masks in April 2020? We assume it was MOH, but can you clarify this. Can you also provide a copy of the letter/email?

I can confirm that it was the Ministry of Health that activated QSi to start producing masks in April 2020. Please find attached as Appendix 1 the letter which was sent to QSi to confirm this. Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons; and
- 9(2)(b)(ii) where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.

Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Q2: As a follow on from our original question 5, did QSi (or the new company) produce any additional masks for MOH? If yes, can you update the Table 1 you provided to include the number of masks produced to 30 June 2024?

Q3: To clarify, does MOH currently have a contract in 30 June 2024 with the entity that bought QSi (formally known as QSi)? If no, when did that existing contract come to an end? Can you also advise the name of the new company?

Q4: It is mentioned in the press that some of the QSi production was faulty. In the article, found here, it mentions that the older stock was put 'on hold'. Was this stock destroyed or reused? Please advise numbers for each category?

As you have been advised, questions 2, 3 and 4 of your request were transferred to Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora on 12 July 2024. You can expect a response from Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora in due course.

Q5: To follow on from Q4, the article notes that masks from 2016-2020 were tested by MOH. How often where the masks tested? Can you advise when and by whom?"

I can clarify that the testing of masks was not done by the Ministry of Health but by independent laboratories. Please see Table 1 below for a break down of where these tests were performed.

Table 1:

2016/17	Masks tested in South Africa
2018/19	Masks tested by Test Safe Australia
2018	Masks tested by Nelson Labs
2020	Masks tested by Vic Labs twice
2020	Masks tested by Nelson Labs

Q6: Your Table 1, now shown in the graph below, (H2024041780) shows that the masks were produced from April for MOH (under the contract). However the text in the article below says January and the video in the article implies 26 March. Can you clarify this? It may have simply been a test of a few masks for the Prime Minister in March, with full production from April. If you could also clarify the start date of production (as per the MOH contract) – would be great.

If there was production before April, can you start the table in January 2020, so that we have certainty.

I can confirm that there was no National Reserve Supply mask production prior to April 2020.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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:

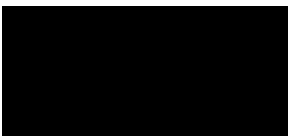
oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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 Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Director Emergency Management
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

