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12 July 2024

Wendy McGuinness

By email: [wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org)  
Ref: H2024045783

Tēnā koe Wendy

### **Partial/Transfer of 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. You requested:

*“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?”*

*Defective masks*

*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?”*

The Ministry does not hold any information relating to these parts of your request; however, I have been advised that this information is more closely connected to the functions of Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora. For this reason, I have decided to transfer these parts of your request to Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora. under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response from Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora. in due course.

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](mailto: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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

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**Manager, OIA Services**  
**Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatore Kāwanatanga**

## COPY OF OIA REQUEST

**From:** Wendy McGuinness [wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org)  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 July 2024 5:01 pm  
**To:** OIA Requests [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz)  
**Cc:** Arne Larsen [al@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:al@mcguinnessinstitute.org)

Hi there,

Many thanks for your response. We now have five follow up questions:

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?

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?

### Defective masks

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?

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

Many thanks, Wendy

**From:** Wendy McGuinness <[wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 July 2024 18:05  
**To:** OIA Requests <[oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Arne Larsen <[al@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:al@mcguinnessinstitute.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Response to your official information request ref: H2024041780 CRM:0294382

Hi again,

I just had another point of clarification.

Your Table 1, now shown in the graph below, 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.

Many thanks Wendy

See 1 April 2020 link below – note the article says ‘Since January, QSi's fulltime focus has been on making N95 pandemic masks and surgical ASTM level 2 face masks, under contract to the Ministry of Health.’  
<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/whanganui-chronicle/news/covid-19-coronavirus-whanganui-company-qsi-cranks-up-mask-manufacture-gets-attention-of-jacinda-ardern/WXVXDKYSGK25P6LSTKUCVSPB7U/>