

Subject: OIA 2026/06 - Procurement process for the National Reserve Supply
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Attachments: image003.jpg, Attachment 1 - OIA response letter - 2025-26-211.pdf, Attachment 2 - NRS Composition as at 31 August 2021.pdf, image005.jpg, image001.png

Kia ora,

OIA 2026/06 - Procurement process for the National Reserve Supply

The Institute is in the final stages of publishing the third edition of [COVID-19 Nation Dates](#). The final draft of the pdf can be found on the link.

One of the outstanding issues relates to the extent to which the government is transparent about the types of stock, and the minimum quantities required to be held, within the National Reserve Supply (NRS). During the early stages of the pandemic, the stock of PPE held in the country was a major stress point and, in our view, should be reported regularly to build trust in our preparedness for future pandemics.

Recently, we received a response to an OIA request from Pharmac regarding their procurement process for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the National Reserve Supply (NRS). In light of their response (see attachment 1), we have eight questions for which we would welcome answers under the Official Information Act. The responses will help complete a chapter in the book, which is intended to provide policymakers and academic researchers with an understanding of the current policy initiatives and practices in regard to the NRS.

National Reserve Supply (NRS)

1. Could you please clarify the roles and responsibilities Health NZ currently holds in relation to the NRS? Note: We understand that Health New Zealand took ownership of the NRS supply chain functions in [July 2022](#) (see screenshot from the [MOH website](#) below), but there were no results found when doing a search of 'national reserve supply' on your website (see screenshot also below). Could you also clarify whether the 'Reserve stockpile of PPE' (found [here](#)) refers to the national reserve supply?

How are the supplies managed?

Following the health transformation in July 2022, the Ministry retained responsibility for setting the national reserve supplies policy direction (including composition) and transferred the supply chain functions (including procurement and storage) to Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL healthnz.govt.nz/search?q=national+reserve+supply. The page header includes 'Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora' and navigation links for 'Health topics', 'Hospitals and services', 'Online and phone', 'About us', and 'News'. A search bar contains the text 'national reserve supply' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, a message states 'No results found for national reserve supply'. The footer of the page also displays 'Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora'.

Reserve stockpile of PPE

We keep a national stockpile of core PPE and other supplies in preparation to respond to a pandemic.

This makes sure health service providers have continued access to specific critical supplies during large or ongoing emergencies that create unusually high demands on normal health service stocks or supply chains.

Health NZ will prioritise access to this reserve stockpile as directed by the Ministry of Health.

2. Could you please provide an up-to-date list all stock held in the National Reserve Supply? Please note that we are not concerned with

the location of this stock, only the types of stock and the minimum quantities required to be held. Note: A list of the NRS stock held was previously available on the Ministry of Health website (see attachment 2), but has recently been removed.

3. What processes is Health NZ putting in place to ensure it maintains the appropriate types, sizes, and qualities of stock (for the NRS)? For example, one such initiative could be an annual review of stock with a diverse range of International and national experts and stakeholders (in which case please provide details). We imagine there is number of initiatives that are being implemented.
4. Has there been any consideration of the Switzerland emergency supply system (see page 63 of the final draft, in the link above)?

Recommendations from the National Reserve Supply Technical Advisory Group

5. Could you forward a copy of the National Reserve Supply Technical Advisory Group report, including a list of their recommendations?
6. Could you clarify what recommendations, if any, have been implemented by Health New Zealand?

Follow up questions from our recent OIA from Pharmac (attachment 1)

7. Can you confirm whether Health New Zealand has undertaken any bulk purchasing of medical devices/equipment resulting from the signing of the contracts on 1 April 2026 (see their response for the wider context). If yes, can you provide a list of what PPE, and the quantity, that was purchased from each company listed in their response?
8. Has Health New Zealand undertaken or plan to undertake further round/s of invitations for ROIs for the procurement of PPE for the NRS? If yes, please explain in detail and provide correspondence?

If you have any points of clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Wendy

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