

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

8 February 2024

Kirsten Murfitt

By email: kirsten@kmlaw.co.nz

Ref: H2023034568

Tēnā koe Kirsten

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 December 2023 for information regarding the World Health Organization (WHO). Please find a response to each part of your request below.

All emails:

- *Between Tedro and Bloomfield from 1 January 2020 through to April 2022; and*
- *Between Bloomfield and the World Health Organisation from 1 January 2020 through to April 2022.*

The Ministry has conducted a search through the user mailbox, including the main mailbox and archive folder, for email correspondence between the former Director-General of Health, Sir Ashley Bloomfield, and the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, or with anyone in the WHO. No information was found to be in scope. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts, cannot be found.

A copy of the latest version of the proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations 2005 held by the Ministry of Health.

A copy of the latest WHO International Health Regulations Amendments (2005) (IHR) is withheld in full under section 6(b)(ii) of the Act, as its release would prejudice information entrusted to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by an international organisation. 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.

The WHO's website contains the latest publicly available proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations: <https://apps.who.int/gb/wgihr/>.

New Zealand's proposed amendments can be found on the Ministry's website at: www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/new-zealand-submission-regarding-proposed-amendments-to-the-ih.pdf.

The Ministry is currently seeking the views of New Zealanders on amendments proposed by Member States to the IHR. This will help inform New Zealand's position as we contribute to the ongoing negotiations in the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (WGIHR).

More information on this publication consultation can be found at:

<https://consult.health.govt.nz/public-health-agency/proposed-amendments-international-health-regs/>.

Further information about the amendments can be found on the Ministry's website at:

www.health.govt.nz/our-work/emergency-management/pandemics/strengthening-global-pandemic-prevention-preparedness-and-response/amending-international-health-regulations-2005.

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/nz/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Andrew Old
Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui