

Appendix Table 3: P Bagshaw OIA requests—progress timeline, September 2019 to August 2020.

12.09.19	OIA request sent to Ministry of Health by email
13.09.19	Email from MoH – “The request as it is currently worded is for a very large volume of information and may be refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982, because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.” MoH suggested refining scope of request.
17.09.19	Refined and re-scoped OIA requests sent to MoH (Some questions removed, coverage period reduced, requests prioritised to aid response stratification by MoH)
26.09.19	Email from MoH declining OIA request “because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.” There was little point in further refining or reducing the scope again. The request was substantial because that was what was required to answer critical questions.
17.12.2019	Email to Office of The Ombudsman. Requested opinion of the Ombudsman as to the application of section 18(f) of the Official Information Act in view of the significant public interest considerations inherent in these matters
19.02.2020	Email to Office of The Ombudsman, enquiring as to status of the complaint re declined OIA requests to Ministry of Health.
19.02.2020	Response from Office of The Ombudsman, advising that complaint had not yet been allocated to an investigator
26.02.2020	Email from Senior Investigator at the Office of The Ombudsman, advising that he will be assisting the Ombudsman with the complaint and requesting all correspondence relating to the requests
27.02.2020	Email providing all requested correspondence sent to Senior Investigator at Office of The Ombudsman
30.03.2020	Email from MoH representative advising that she will be reviewing the 19 requests to the Ministry, following the lodgement of complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman.
30.03.2020	Email response to MoH representative advising her that requestor is happy for work to be suspended whilst resources are focussed on the response to Covid-19 in New Zealand.
30.04.2020	Email received from MoH representative advising that her work on the MoH response to the OIAs directed to the MoH is now largely complete.
10.06.2020	Email to MoH representative requesting that, as New Zealand is back at Level 1 Covid-19 response, I wish all the required information to be provided as soon as possible.
16.06.2020	Email from MoH representative, advising that electronic files will be created for sending to me, aiming for “no later than mid-July”.
18.07.2020	Email to MoH representative, asking for confirmation that information relating to the very longstanding OIA request will be sent to me by the end of the coming week (by Friday 24th July 2020)
23.07.2020	Email to Senior Investigator at the Office of The Ombudsman, requesting his intervention to ensure provision of information.
23.07.2020	Email from Senior Investigator at the Office of The Ombudsman, noting that no investigation or opinion by Ombudsman had been necessary as the Ministry of Health had, upon receipt of notification of the complaint having been made, decided that it would provide the information requested after all. He offered to make inquiries with the MoH in order to expedite provision of the information. Offer duly accepted by return email.
3.08.2020	Email to Senior Investigator at the Office of The Ombudsman, asking what progress made.
3.08.2020	Email received from Senior Investigator at the Office of The Ombudsman, advising MoH have new deadline of 21st August to provide the information concerned.
13.08.2020	3516 documents (in hard copy only) received from Ministry of Health, relating to the OIA requests made to the Ministry of Health.