

22 November 2022

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I refer to your email of 15 November 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- *What was total cost of all masks supplied to the public since the beginning of covid (30 March 2020)? Please separate by mask type i.e. medical mask, N95, P2 particulate respirator etc.*
- *What is the cost budgeted for future mask expenditure over the next 2 years?*


The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) has not purchased any masks specifically for the purpose of supplying the New Zealand public since 30 March 2020, neither has the Ministry budgeted to purchase masks for supplying the public over the next two years. Therefore, your request for information is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

I do note that the Ministry did purchase masks for use by staff and some were placed at reception so visiting members of the public may have availed themselves of the masks provided.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) and enclosed documents on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade