



4 March 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Via Email: [REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 28 January 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹ where information to meet your request has been sourced from our contracted laboratory provider; Medlab South, Nelson Marlborough (part of the SCL Group).

- 1. How many COVID-19 tests, taken in the NMDHB region between 22 January 2020 and today's date 28 January 2021, have been spoiled or damaged? Resulting in those samples not being able to be tested.**

NMH response: 37 COVID-19 samples.

With a specific breakdown of:

- a. How were the tests spoiled or damaged?**

NMH response: How is not recorded or able to be identified from the laboratory perspective. In all 37 samples there was insufficient sample for testing.

- b. When and where the samples were taken and transported to?**

NMH response: COVID-19 samples are transported from the site of collection to the laboratory for testing.

- c. What repercussions were there for those involved in the testing process, including the patients affected?**

NMH response: The requesting health professional is notified and decides on the best course of action which may include a repeat collection of the sample.

- d. How many patients, whose tests were spoiled or damaged, subsequently tested positive for COVID-19?**

NMH response: Nil.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

e. Any and all copies of video and photographs of spoiled or damaged COVID-19 tests.

NMH response: Video or photographs are not taken at the laboratory.

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIRequest@nmdhb.govt.nz I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive