



Department of Health and Human Services

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Melbourne Victoria 3001
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au
CX 210081

Our ref: F20/1468

Sent to Mr Jarrod Ryan via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

NOTICE OF DECISION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) cited below and received by the department on 4 September 2020:

"This is a request for documents under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request access to (All) records describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly from a sample taken from a diseased patient, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka vero cells; liver cancer cells).

Please note that I am using "isolation" in the every-day sense of the word: the act of separating a thing(s) from everything else. I am not requesting records where "isolation of SARS-COV-2" refers instead to:

- the culturing of something, or*
- the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), or*
- the sequencing of something.*

To clarify, I am requesting all such records that are in the possession, custody or control of the DHHS (for example: downloaded to a computer, printed in hard copy, etc.)."

Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic)

The Act establishes a general right of access to documents held by the department. To protect essential public interests and the private and business affairs of individuals, the right of access does not apply to a document identified in the Act as exempt.

If a document contains exempt material the Act allows for an edited copy to be released after the exempt matter has been deleted and where it is practicable to do so.

Documents

On the basis of your request, the relevant divisions conducted a thorough and diligent search and advised that no relevant documents have been located.

Review rights

You can complain to the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner if you are dissatisfied with the way in which the request has been managed or in situations where documents do not
