



NEW ZEALAND
CUSTOMS SERVICE
TE MANA ĀRAI O AOTEAROA

AUCKLAND

Customhouse, 50 Anzac Avenue, Auckland 1010
PO Box 29, Shortland Street, Auckland 1140
Phone: 09 927 8000
Website: www.customs.govt.nz

PROTECTING NEW ZEALAND'S BORDER

21 September 2020

Ref: OIA 20-243

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for information under the Official Information Act

Thank you for your email, dated 31 August 2020, to the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs), in which you make the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"This request relates to five coronavirus tests from the Ruby Princess cruise ship on March 13 and 14, 2020 while the ship was docked in Wellington.

- 1. Please provide documentation relating to those five tests.*
- 2. Please provide emails (including attachments) sent by NZ Customs about Ruby Princess and/or those five test coronavirus to any of the following organisations in March and April 2020.*
 - Ruby Princess cruise ship*
 - Princess Cruises*
 - any Australian state and federal government organisations (including but not limited to NSW Health, Australian Border Force).*
 - NZ Customs."*

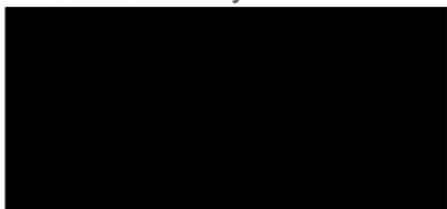
Customs is currently conducting an investigation in relation to the alleged incidence of COVID-19 on board the Ruby Princess cruise ship during the ship's voyage to New Zealand in March 2020. As part of that investigation we are liaising with Crown Law, the Ministry of Health, and Australian authorities. We have also received a copy of the report of the New South Wales Special Commission of Inquiry into the Ruby Princess, which we are reviewing and will use to inform our own investigation.

As a result of the above, Customs is withholding the information you are seeking, pursuant to section 6(c) of the Act, as making that information available would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

If you have any queries about this response, please contact Prasheeta Ram-Taki, Customs' Senior Communications Advisor, in the first instance on +64 29 357 0310 or by email at Prasheeta.Ram-Taki@customs.govt.nz.

Please note that Customs proactively releases responses to Official Information Act requests on our website. We will hold this response for two months before publishing it. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Yours sincerely



Dana McDonald
Group Manager - Intelligence, Investigations and Enforcement