

25 March 2022

By email:	
Dear	
Official Information A	ct request
Our Ref: OIA353/1	

1. I refer to your email of 27 February 2022 in which you request:

 \dots to inspect the original of the COVID-19 Health Response Act 2020 with Royal Assent. I wish this request to be treated as "urgent"

- 2. I regret the delay in responding to your request, but I have liaised with the Parliamentary Counsel Office and the Parliamentary Information Service, which has taken some time, and have endeavoured to provide a helpful response below.
- 3. It may be useful to provide some context regarding the status of official versions of legislation.
 - 3.1 The requirements for publishing legislation, and the status of official versions of legislation, are governed by the Legislation Act 2019 and Legislation (Publication) Regulations 2021.
 - 3.2 Official versions of legislation must be published on http://www.legislation.govt.nz; an official printed version of legislation must be published by or on behalf of the Parliamentary Counsel Office; and official versions of legislation must have a representation of the New Zealand Coat of Arms on its front page.¹
 - 3.3 Official versions of legislation are taken to correctly set out the text of the legislation.²
 - 3.4 All courts and persons acting judicially must take judicial notice of all legislation.³

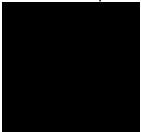
¹ Legislation Act 2019, s 78 and Legislation (publication) Regulations 2021, regulation 11.

² Legislation Act 2019, s 79.

³ Legislation Act 2019, s 81.

- 3.5 A Bill passed by the House of Representatives does not become law until it receives Royal assent.⁴
- 3.6 Under the Standing Orders,⁵ when the Royal assent to a bill has been given, the Clerk deposits one of the fair prints of the bill with the Registrar of the High Court at Wellington, and retains the second.⁶
- 4. The assent copies of Acts of Parliament are not digitally published. However, I am informed that you should email parlinfo@parliament.govt.nz to enquire about viewing the assent copy of the COVID-19 Health Response Act 2020, and that the Parliamentary Information Service will engage you further on this.
- 5. You have a right under s 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1986 to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response.

Yours faithfully



Crown Counsel

Constitution Act 1986, s 16.

⁵ These are the primary rules for the House of Representatives, providing for the conduct of its proceedings and for the exercise of its powers: SO 1.

⁶ SO 325.