



25 March 2022

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act request**

**Our Ref: OIA353/1**

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

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

[REDACTED]

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.<sup>1</sup>

3.3 Official versions of legislation are taken to correctly set out the text of the legislation.<sup>2</sup>

3.4 All courts and persons acting judicially must take judicial notice of all legislation.<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> Legislation Act 2019, s 79.

<sup>3</sup> Legislation Act 2019, s 81.

- 3.5 A Bill passed by the House of Representatives does not become law until it receives Royal assent.<sup>4</sup>
- 3.6 Under the Standing Orders,<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>
4. The assent copies of Acts of Parliament are not digitally published. However, I am informed that you should email [parlinfo@parliament.govt.nz](mailto: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

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<sup>4</sup> Constitution Act 1986, s 16.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> SO 325.