Your ref: F20/1157

Sent via email to:

Dear Ms Smirnis

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 20 July 2020:

> *"Any documents, reports, studies, or tests that names and identifies the specific Monoclonal Antibody that has been isolated, that pathologists require to prove the presence of the coronavirus named as Novel Coronavirus 2019 (2019‑nCoV) Covid‑19 otherwise known as SARS‑CoV‑2 (not any other type of coronavirus), where this specific Monoclonal Antibody is being used to diagnose and prove the identity of the coronavirus infection named Covid‑19, as being the specific Monoclonal Antibody being present in a biopsy or in autopsy tissue when a autopsy is performed, being the Scientific evidence that pathologists require to prove that the person died from, or with the coronavirus Covid‑19 (2019‑nCoV), and not any other cold or flu coronavirus"*

I apologise for the delay in finalising your request and thank you for your patience.

***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 division has advised that we do not use monoclonal antibodies to diagnose COVID. Consequently, 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 exist or cannot be located.

The enclosed fact sheet contains more information about this process.

Yours sincerely

Annalise Bamford
Executive Director, Executive Services
Legal and Executive Services

14 / 09 / 2020

Enc.
1. Fact Sheet – Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner – Complaints

Freedom of Information Complaints

Factsheet

If you are not satisfied with the way that the department processed your freedom of information request, you may lodge a complaint with the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (the Commissioner).

Types of Complaints

The Commissioner can investigate actions taken by agencies in processing requests.

Examples include:

- if the department advises you that the documents cannot be located or that the documents do not exist
- if you feel that the department's response to a freedom of information request has been unreasonably delayed beyond the statutory time period.

Timeframe for making a complaint

A complaint must be made within 60 days of the action or conduct which is the subject of the complaint.

How to make a complaint

Complaints must be made in writing and addressed to:

Victorian Information Commissioner
Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner
PO Box 24274
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Phone: 1300 006 842
enquiries@ovic.vic.gov.au

Complaint application forms are available on the Commissioner's website: www.ovic.vic.gov.au