

23 June 2022

**Official Information Act Request: Tetanus satisfying Koch's Postulates proving disease causation.**

On 25 May 2022 you sent a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act) to ESR as follows:

This is a formal request for access to general records, made under the Official Information Act.

**Description of Requested Records:**

*All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of ESR that uses purified Clostridium Tetani bacteria to prove causation via satisfying Koch's Postulates of the alleged Tetanus disease (lockjaw) in animals and/or humans.*

*Please note that I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to:*

- *Use valid controls*
- *Satisfy all 4 Koch's Postulates*

*The 4 Koch's Postulates are stated below:*

1. *The microorganism must be found in abundance in all organisms suffering from the disease but should not be found in healthy organisms.*
2. *The microorganism must be isolated from a diseased organism and grown in pure culture.*
3. *The cultured microorganism should cause disease when introduced into a healthy organism.*
4. *The microorganism must be reisolated from the inoculated, diseased experimental host and identified as being identical to the original specific causative agent.*

*I am not seeking any records disputing Koch's postulates nor any records that attempt to justify the alleged tetanus disease (lockjaw) using unscientific methods. I am only seeking records that prove causation using valid scientific methods including valid control groups.*

*My request includes any study/report matching the above description, **authored by anyone, anywhere.***

*If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each one with certainty (i.e., title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.*

**Format:**

*Pdf documents sent to me via email; I do not wish for anything to be shipped to me.*

## Our response to your request:

We are not aware that ESR holds any studies and/or reports that uses purified Clostridium Tetani bacteria to prove causation via satisfying Koch's Postulates of the alleged Tetanus disease (lockjaw) in animals and/or humans. We accordingly rely on section 18(e) of the Act – that the documents containing the information requested cannot be found at ESR.

Fulfilling Koch's postulates was used over 100 years ago to determine if an organism actually caused a disease; in the case of Tetanus this has been undisputed for decades.

It is not ESR's role to justify something this long proven and accepted worldwide.

We direct you to the following links below for further information:

[https://surv.esr.cri.nz/PDF\\_surveillance/AnnualRpt/AnnualSurv/2019/2019AnnualNDRReport\\_FINAL.pdf](https://surv.esr.cri.nz/PDF_surveillance/AnnualRpt/AnnualSurv/2019/2019AnnualNDRReport_FINAL.pdf)

[https://surv.esr.cri.nz/PDF\\_surveillance/AnnualRpt/AnnualSurv/2018/2018AnnualNDRReport\\_FINAL.pdf](https://surv.esr.cri.nz/PDF_surveillance/AnnualRpt/AnnualSurv/2018/2018AnnualNDRReport_FINAL.pdf)

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/communicable-disease-control-manual/tetanus>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/tetanus#:~:text=All%20babies%20in%20New%20Zealand,4%20and%2011%20years%20old.>

<https://www.cdc.gov/tetanus/index.html#:~:text=Tetanus%20is%20an%20infection%20caused,open%20the%20mouth%20or%20swallow.>

## Your right to seek a review

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Jill Vintiner

**Joint General Manager Health and Environment Group – Health  
ESR**