

**Subject:** OIA: Domestic manufacturer of P2 (N95) and general purpose (surgical) face masks in 2020 (Our reference 2024/15)  
**Date:** Monday, 20 May 2024 at 11:07:31 AM New Zealand Standard Time  
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**To:** [REDACTED]  
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**Attachments:** image001.png

To whom it may concern,

## Our OIA 2024/15: Domestic manufacturer of P2 (N95) and general purpose (surgical) face masks in 2020

The Institute is currently in the process of preparing a second edition of [COVID-19 Nation Dates](#). The second edition will build on the existing events as well as new events from 23 January 2020 to May 2024. As part of this process, we have a few outstanding questions on domestic mask production in 2020.

This OIA builds on an earlier OIA made in 2020 (our OIA 2020/01, 2 March 2020). Your reference number was H202001095 and a copy can be found on our website [here](#). Your response includes the following paragraph:

*New Zealand has a domestic manufacturer of P2 (N95) and general purpose (surgical) face masks. The domestic manufacturer continues to make P2 masks. The Ministry is working with the domestic manufacturer to maintain production of masks for the health sector.*

Note: The Prime Minister said QSi had a contract with MOH ('Since January, QSi's fulltime focus has been on making N95 pandemic masks and surgical ASTM level 2 face masks, under contract to the Ministry of Health'). See [here](#).

The first few questions are points of clarification. However a few questions are follow ups, given the challenges MOH faced at the time. Three years later this information is still important, and it our hope that MOH now has the time and resources to shed more light on these critical supply questions.

1. Was QSi the domestic manufacturer that is referred to in your response to our 2020 OIA? See blue text above?  
Note: The [Prime Minister implied this](#), so this is just a point of clarification.

2. Was QSi the domestic manufacturer that is referred to in the [New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan: A framework for action](#) (p. 133).  
The [Prime Minister implied this](#), so this is just a point of clarification.

**The Ministry of Health also holds bulk stores of P2 grade masks and general purpose masks in several locations around the country. A strategic P2 and general purpose mask-manufacturing capability has been established in New Zealand, and a supply of stockpiled raw material is in place to further reduce this country's vulnerability to the disruption of overseas supply lines.**

3. What date was the contract originally signed with QSi? We assume 2016 or 2017, but it would be useful to have the year clarified.

4. Was QSi the domestic manufacturer who supplied the masks directly to the National Reserve Supply?  
The [Prime Minister implied this](#), so this is just a point of clarification.

5. How many masks did the domestic manufacturer (assumably QSi) manufacture (i) each month during 2020, and (ii) by type of mask P2 (N95) and surgical face masks? Note, the [Prime Minister implied it](#) was '80,000 masks a day'.

Table 1: Number of PPE masks manufactured domestically in 2020 as a result of MOH contracts

2020	P2 masks	Surgical masks	Total
Jan			
Feb			
Mar			
Apr			

May			
Jun			
Jul			
Aug			
Sep			
Oct			
Nov			
Dec			
TOTAL			

6. I understand that QSi is now [reduced significantly in size](#), but is keeping its mask production business in operation. Can you clarify that their mask production business is still in operation?
7. We also note the ownership changed in 2020. Can you clarify if the contract was reviewed at this time or updated in any way? Or was it just continued with the new owners?
8. What issues occurred in 2020 that impacted on the quality or quantity of domestic mask production in New Zealand? For example, had any of the rolls of mask material held in New Zealand as pandemic stock expired, was any of the machinery out of date (hence why new machinery was needed) etc. Please list and explain.
9. Does MOH still have a contract with QSi to provide masks in light of a pandemic? We note that QSi is still in operation (see the Companies Register) [here](#).
10. When was the last time MOH purchased masks from QSi (i.e. month and year) and how many?

### Broader questions

11. How many businesses currently have a contract to domestically manufacture masks for the National Reserve Supply (NRS) in light of a pandemic?
12. Please list the names of *all* domestic manufacturers that the government has contracts with to supply the NRS in light of a pandemic? (For example, one business only: QSi supply both P2 and surgical masks). If two manufacturers, please name and clarify the types of masks they manufacture?
13. What is currently the minimum number of masks by type that MOH considers New Zealand should hold in stock: (i) P2 or (ii) surgical masks, does MOH aim to *hold in stock*? If this is under the NRS review, please advise the current situation.
14. What is the minimum number of masks by type, that is (i) P2 or (ii) surgical masks, does MOH aim to have able to be *produced domestically* in light of a pandemic? If this is under the NRS review, please advise the current situation.
15. Is a regular review of each domestic manufacturer undertaken? If yes, how often and by whom (e.g. completed by MOH every 6 months)? What criteria/factors are considered as part of the review?

We are working hard to make the second edition of our book complete and accurate. Thank you for your assistance.

Best wishes

Wendy McGuinness

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