



22 July 2020

Mx Watson

By email: [fyi-request-13183-4c8abad5@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13183-4c8abad5@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Reference: OIA-2019/20-0614

Dear Mx Watson

**Official Information Act request relating to a COVID-19 trans-Tasman bubble**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 29 June 2020. You requested:

*“Our government describes itself as open and transparent, in that vein, I am requesting more transparency with regards to what requirements we are looking for in Australian COVID case numbers and the characteristics of those cases.*

*More specifically, I am asking for clarification on the guidelines given to Australia which Jacinda Ardern referenced in the 29/06/2020 post-cabinet press conference. The Prime Minister mentioned that there were two proposals, one state-specific, and one Australian wide. New Zealanders who have split families, separated loved ones, or even those with business which spans the Tasman are all interested in the movement towards feasible open borders, and any timeframe this may occur within. Being able to openly discuss both the merits of New Zealand's requirements and Australia's progress towards them will provide more certainty and reassurance to distressed family members and the New Zealand public.*

*I have also sent this OIA to the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern so there is no need to extend the timeline should one office be more suited to respond.”*

After reviewing the material requested, we have determined that the information you have requested is more closely connected to the functions of the Prime Minister. Normally, I would transfer your request, however, I note you have made your request to both the Prime Minister's Office, and to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. I trust the Prime Minister's Office will respond within due course.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely

Clare Ward

**Executive Director, Strategy, Governance and Engagement**