

25 February 2021

Tess Daley

By email: fyi-request-14526-04465137@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202100369

Dear Tess Daley

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 25 January 2021 regarding the National Immunisation Solution (NIS).

Responses to your questions are set out below.

"I would like to receive all officials emails, notes, communications and documents related to the public procurement and decision making process for the technology vendor of the new National Immunisation Solution that was referred to by Loretta on Radio New Zealand today. She described this as being different to the technology platform to the Covid immunisation register/module that is already being built and will be ready on 1 March to manage the Covid vaccination process."

The NIS procurement plan has yet to be written. The detailed requirements for a full NIS are yet to be completed and the Ministry is not yet able to determine the appropriate route to market while its resources are heavily focussed on COVID-19. As such, no procurement decision-making has been completed and the Ministry intends to develop the requirements for an options analysis in the next few months. Information covered by this part of your request is therefore withheld under sections 9(2)(j) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to enable the Ministry to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial negotiations, and to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

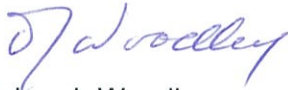
"I would also like to receive any documentation that describes the decision making process for the National Immunisation Solution, including the business case that was sent to Cabinet in October 2020. The newspaper referenced investment of \$23m on top of an already \$15m invested. In the news in July and August 2020, reference was made to \$23m being invested in a new immunisation register. Was this decision made by the Ministry of Health, before Cabinet made their decision?"

The decision-making process relating to the NIS has been ongoing for several years and this part of your request includes a very large amount of information. On 19 February 2021, we advised you that this part of your request, as worded, was likely to be refused under section 18(f) of the Act and asked whether you would be willing to narrow the scope to "the business case and associated key decision-making documents (including relevant Cabinet papers)". As we have not received a response, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. The Ministry, however, remains willing to discuss with you an appropriate scope for this part of your request.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention