

20 April 2021

Felix Lee

By email: fyi-request-14747-fea288a2@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202101848

Dear Felix Lee

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 23 February 2021 for:

"...any advice or documents regarding the decision to make the COVID-19 vaccines free for non-citizen/residents"

On 23 March 2021, the Ministry extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 20 April 2021, as further collation and consultation was required.

We have interpreted your request to include formal advice and documents. The table in Appendix 1 outlines four documents within scope of your request, and my decision on the release of each document.

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



Maree Roberts
**Deputy Director-General
Strategy and Policy**

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	7 December 2020	Memo to Steering Group: Non-residents eligibility for COVID-19 immunisation	Released with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege • 9(2)(j) to enable the Ministry to carry on negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage.
2	15 January 2021	Briefing: Draft Cabinet Paper: February 2021 update on the COVID-19 Immunisation Strategy and Programme [HR20202320]	Released with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons • 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege. <p>Some information outside the scope of the request has also been withheld.</p>
3	11 February 2021	Briefing: Ministerial Direction: Eligibility for publicly funded COVID-19 Immunisation [HR20210174]	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
		Please note that the reference to HR20202330 in paragraph 4 is incorrect – it should refer to HR20202320, as referenced in paragraph 2.	The attachment to this document is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as it is publicly available at: www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-direction-2021-gazette-notice.pdf
4		Cabinet Paper: February 2021 update on the COVID-19 Immunisation Strategy and Programme	Refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as this information will soon be publicly available on the Ministry's website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/release-ministerial-decision-making-documents