

13 July 2021

John Jacobson
fyi-request-15162-1322f185@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John

I refer to your request to Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response, dated 13 April 2021, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982. The following was transferred to the Ministry of Transport on 27 April 2021.

“(a) the dates and titles of all advice or memos generated within the Ministry of Health which are either solely about, or incorporate content relating to, the topic of how a person might provide proof or certification of either having been vaccinated against Covid-19, or otherwise having Covid-19 antibodies.

(b) copies of the advice or memos identified as within the scope of (a) above.

(c) copies of communications from the Ministry to each of the following about options for, or work to progress, people being able to provide proof of their Covid-19 vaccination or antibody status, sent between 1 August 2020 and 13 April 2021;

(i) the Minister or Associate Ministers of Health, or officials in their offices;

(ii) the Minister for Covid-19 Response, or officials in his office;

(iii) officials in the Covid-19 Group in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

(iv) officials in the Department of Internal Affairs

(v) officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

(vi) officials in the Ministry of Justice.

We have interpreted the scope of your request to cover substantive correspondence. Material that is administrative in nature has not been included. The documents within scope of your request can be found in the Appendix including any reasons on why information has been withheld.

Please note the Ministry does not hold any information on COVID-19 antibody status.

Section 9 information withheld

In regard to the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am of the opinion that there are no countervailing considerations that make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

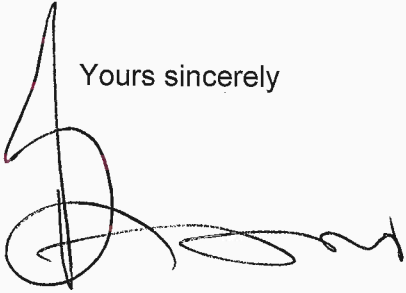
Complaints

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act to make a complaint about the withholding of information to the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
P O Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you will be published on the Ministry website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bev Driscoll', written over a vertical line.

Bev Driscoll
Manager, Regulatory Policy

Appendix 1: Documents that fall within the scope of your request

	Date	Document	Description of proposed information to withhold
1	28 January	Briefing – International Connections and the Border – Travel Pass and “Green Travellers”	<p>This information was released in a previous Official Information Act Request. You can access it in the link below:</p> <p>https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/OIA-response/InternationalConnectionsAndTheBorder-TravelPassAndGreenTravellers.pdf</p>
2	9 February	<p>Agenda – Passenger Facilitation and Travel Pass Workshop_Meeting Agenda_ 10 February</p> <p>2A - Presentation – Traveller Certificates_Final</p>	<p>Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6(a) – relating to prejudice to the international relations of the New Zealand Government • 9(2)(f)(iv) – maintaining constitutional conventions which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials. <p>Note that Five Country refers to the Five Country Conference meetings focused on the immigration, border space.</p> <p>Note, on page 5, document 2A, airports were absent from the list but were acknowledged at the workshop as key stakeholders.</p>
3	12 February	Email – Passenger Facilitation / Travel Passes Workshop	<p>Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a) – relating to personal privacy.

Date	Document	Description of proposed information to withhold
	<p>3A - Attachment 1 – International Vaccine Certification Five Eyes Issue Paper January 2021</p> <p>3B - Attachment 2 – CPCD 2020-2021 Vaccines Border Tracker</p>	<p>Document 3A is withheld in full under section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 which relates to prejudice to the international relations of the New Zealand Government.</p> <p>Document 3B is withheld in full as it is not within scope of this request.</p>
4	<p>19 February</p> <p>Email – Travel Health Pass Work – Write-up and Next Steps</p> <p>4A - Attachment 1 – Travel Health Pass.pptx</p> <p>4B - Attachment 2 – Travel Health Pass Workshop Write-up_February 2021</p> <p>4C - Attachment 3 – Green Travellers – vaccines and resumption of passenger travel</p>	<p>Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a) – relating to personal privacy • 6(a) – relating to prejudice to the international relations of the New Zealand Government • 6(b) – prejudice to the confidential entrusting of information to the New Zealand Government by other governments • 9(2)(f)(iv) – maintaining constitutional conventions which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials. <p>Attachment 1 on this email is withheld as it has been released under document 2.</p> <p>Note that Five Country refers to the Five Country Conference meetings focused on the immigration, border space.</p> <p>Note, on the last page of document 4B, airports were absent from the list but were acknowledged at the workshop as key stakeholders.</p>

	Date	Document	Description of proposed information to withhold
5	23 February	Briefing – Meeting with Robert Courts MP, UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Transport	<p>Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6(a) – relating to prejudice to the international relations of the New Zealand Government • 6(b) – prejudice to the confidential entrusting of information to the New Zealand Government by other governments • 9(2)(a) – relating to personal privacy • 9(2)(b)(ii) – prejudice to the commercial position of a company • 9(2)(f)(iv) – maintaining constitutional conventions which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials • 9(2)(g)(i) – relating to the free and frank expression of opinion by officials.
6	3 March	Email – Health Travel Pass Programme Meeting – Update 6A - Attachment 1 – Travel Health Pass Work Programme_3 March	<p>Information not in scope has been removed.</p> <p>Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a) – relating to personal privacy • 9(2)(f)(iv) – maintaining constitutional conventions which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials • 9(2)(g)(i) – relating to the free and frank expression of opinion by officials.

	Date	Document	Description of proposed information to withhold
7	4 March	Slide excerpt - Unlocking our borders safely	Most of the information in the full slides relates to the other parts of a broader work programme and is therefore out of scope. For this reason, an excerpt from this slide pack, making available the parts related to the Travel Health Pass area of this work, is being provided rather than the original attachment.
8	11 March	Notes – IATA and Air New Zealand	This document is withheld in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982, which relates to confidential information and prejudice to its future availability.
9	1 April	Briefing - Introduction to the Travel Health Pass Work Programme	<p>Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6(a) – relating to prejudice to the international relations of the New Zealand Government • 9(2)(a) – relating to personal privacy • 9(2)(f)(iv) – maintaining constitutional conventions which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials • 9(2)(g)(i) – relating to the free and frank expression of opinion by officials.

	Date	Document	Description of proposed information to withhold
10	9 April	Document excerpt - Transport COVID-19 Response Insights Situation Report	The report is provided to the Minister of Transport on a weekly basis. They are designed to give the Minister a quick update on all the Transport COVID-19 Response workstreams. Information out of scope from these reports has been removed.
11	15 April	Briefing – Travel Health Pass Work Programme	<p>Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6(a) – relating to prejudice to the international relations of the New Zealand Government, • 9(2)(a) – relating to personal privacy • 9(2)(b)(ii) – prejudice to the commercial position of a company • 9(2)(f)(iv) – maintaining constitutional conventions which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials • 9(2)(g)(i) – relating to the free and frank expression of opinion by officials.

