

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Scott

fyi-request-15473-423f8785@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref. C-19 OIA 2021-004

Dear Scott

Official Information Act request relating to briefings and reports from the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, transferred to my Office on 27 May 2021. You requested:

"For the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group I request, dated to 17 May:

2. Copies of all advice provided to the Minister for the Covid-19 Response."

One paper, titled 'COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group: Feedback on MOH papers', has been identified as relevant to your request. This paper is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, as it remains under active consideration. The release of the document at this time would likely prejudice the ability of Government to consider advice and the wider public interest would not be served.

I am satisfied that, in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of this information under section 9(2)(f)(iv) is not outweighed by other considerations that mean it would be desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

We intend to proactively release this paper on the Unite Against COVID-19 website when it is no longer under active consideration. I am advised that this will likely occur before the end of July.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH'.

Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response