



27 July 2021

Scott

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

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0664

Dear Scott

Official Information Act request relating to meeting minutes and advice provided to Ministers between 18 May and 15 June 2021

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 15 June 2021. You requested:

***“all meeting minutes of the two advisory groups, and copies of all advice they provided to the two ministers, for the period 18 May to 15 June.*”**

Further, I would like to request copies of all COVID-19 Response Weekly Reports, dated from the beginning of February to 15 June.”

On 28 June 2021, the part of your request regarding the COVID-19 Response Weekly Reports was transferred to the Minister for COVID-19 Response, Hon Chris Hipkins, for response. The part of your request regarding meeting minutes and advice remained with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to respond.

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days because consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

I have decided to release to you a copy of the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group (CRIAG) meeting minutes from 15 June 2021, subject to information being withheld as noted below. The relevant ground under which information has been withheld is:

- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials

Additionally, within scope of your request is advice that was provided by CRIAG and the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group to the Minister for COVID-19 Response. Some of this information has already been proactively released on the Unite Against COVID-19 website (the website) and is available through the following link: covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/independent-advisory-groups/.

The rest of this information is intended to be published on the website by mid-August. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

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 DPMCs website.

Yours sincerely



Cheryl Barnes
Deputy Chief Executive, COVID-19 Group