



16 July 2021

BEB OIA 21-002

Sebastian

By email: [fyi-request-15553-e4de83f9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15553-e4de83f9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Sebastian

### **Request for official information**

Thank you for your email, dated 25 May 2021 to the New Zealand Customs Service requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your request was transferred to the Border Executive Board Secretariat on 28 May 2021 for response. On 21 June 2021, the timeframe for providing a response was extended for a further 15 working days.

In your request, you have requested the following documents:

- *A copy of the Border Sector Strategy*
- *A copy of the BEB Work Programme*
- *Copies of the minutes of all BEB meetings (dated January to April 2021)*
- *Copies of all BEB reports submitted to the COVID-19 Response Minister (dated January to April 2021)*

Please find below responses to each of the four bullet points above.

#### **Topic one: A copy of the Border Sector Strategy**

Work on the Border Sector Strategy as noted in the Border Executive Board's Terms of Reference has not started yet. There is currently no timeline as to when work will begin on the strategy. Therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that the document does not exist.

#### **Topic two: A copy of the BEB Work Programme**

The draft Work Programme was discussed by the Border Executive Board at its meeting on 3 June 2021. A copy of the BEB Work Programme as at 25 June 2021 is attached.

#### **Topic three: Copies of the minutes of all BEB meetings (dated January to April 2021)**

Copies of the Border Executive Board meeting minutes for the period January 2021 - April 2021 are attached. While the Border Executive Board usually meets weekly, there are some weeks where a meeting was not scheduled and therefore there are no meeting minutes.

Some of the information in these meeting minutes has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a) – where making the information available would be likely to prejudice the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- section 6(b)(i) – where making the information available would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the New Zealand Government;
- section 7(b) – where making the information available could prejudice relations between the Governments of New Zealand and the Cook Islands;
- section 9(2)(a) – where withholding of information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons;
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) – where making the information available would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information;
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – where the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – where the withholding of information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown;
- section 9(2)(h) – where the withholding of information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.

**Topic four: Copies of all BEB reports submitted to the COVID-19 Response Minister (dated January to April 2021)**

The following two reports are attached.

- *BEB RPT 21-002 – Maximising COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Tier One*
- *BEB RPT 21-005 – Performance Information for Vote Customs Border System Performance Output Expense Appropriation*

Some of the information in these two reports has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a) – the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions;
- section 9(2)(h) – the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.

During the period January 2021 – April 2021, as part of a suite of papers relating to Quarantine Free Travel, the following two Border Executive Board reports were submitted to the Minister for COVID-19 Response:

- *Quarantine Free Entry to NZ from the Cook Islands*
- *One-way Quarantine Free Entry from Niue to New Zealand*

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Both these reports are withheld in full under section 18(d) of the Act as they, along with the other papers in the suite related to Quarantine Free Travel, will soon be made publically available.

For both the meeting minutes and the two reports, the Border Executive Board Secretariat has considered the public interest arguments in favour of making this information available; however, it is considered that these interests do not outweigh the necessity to withhold the information.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right, by way of complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available online at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or alternatively the Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted on 0800 802 602.

I also wish to advise that the Border Executive Board Secretariat proactively releases responses to Official Information Act requests on the Board Executive Board page hosted on the Customs' website. As such, this response, without your name and contact details, may be published on the website after it has been sent to you.

If you have any queries about this response, please contact the Border Executive Board Secretariat at [BEB.info@customs.govt.nz](mailto:BEB.info@customs.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Fiona McKissock  
**Executive Director**  
**Border Executive Board**