



11 October 2021

T Baker

[fyi-request-16178-9ff2b0bb@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-16178-9ff2b0bb@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: OIA-2021/22-0124

Dear T Baker

**Official Information Act request relating to the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request that was transferred to the Department of the Prime minister and Cabinet on 16 August 2021. You requested:

1. *“Members of Modelling Governance Group.*
2. *Modelling Governance Group terms of reference.*
3. *Fee structure and cost incurred to date by Ministry by all activities associated with the Modelling Governance Group.*
4. *Conflicts of interest declared by members of Modelling Governance Group.*
5. *All modelling reports provided to Modelling Governance Group.*
6. *All minutes of meetings of Modelling Governance Group.*
7. *All comments made to reports issued to Modelling Governance Group.*
8. *All emails received or issued by the Ministry, by the Government, and by members of the Modelling Governance Group, associated with the Modelling Governance Group since group was appointed.”*

On 6 August 2021, you clarified to the Ministry of Health that your request was specifically in relation to the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group.

On 13 September 2021, the time limit for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days for consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

Parts 1, 2, 5 and 7 of your request are publicly available on the Unite against COVID-19 website (see link: [covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/independent-advisory-groups/scphag/](https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/independent-advisory-groups/scphag/)). I am therefore refusing these parts of your request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is publicly available.

Information within scope of part 3 of your request has been identified and is currently being processed for release. We will aim to provide this information to you by late October 2021 or sooner.

In relation to part 4, as of the date of your request, no conflicts of interest have been declared by any member of the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. I refer you to paragraph 22 of the Terms of Reference for the protocol for addressing any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

Regarding part 6 of your request, I note that no formal minutes are taken for the Group's meetings as discussions are documented and provided in advice to Ministers. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Regarding part 8 of your request, I am refusing this information under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. A preliminary search for these emails indicates that they are largely administrative in nature and unrelated to the work carried out by the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. If you still wish to have this information, please make a separate request to [Information@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Information@dpmc.govt.nz)

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 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Fairhall  
**Head of Strategy & Policy, COVID-19 Group**