

Reference: 20210396

12 November 2021

Matt McNeill  
fyi-request-16481-354f6639@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Matt

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 24 August 2021.  
You requested:

*all Cost Benefit work related to Level 4 Lock Downs.*

*This work can be either,  
Created for internal treasury purposes, or*

*Work that has been requested by any government minister, or*

*Work that has been requested by any government department*

The time to respond was extended by 40 working days.

The Government's response to COVID-19 encompasses a wide range of policies and investments across a wide range of agencies. The Treasury has provided advice on the costs and benefits of various aspects of the response over time; it does not hold a cost benefit analysis which captures the entire response programme. Accordingly, I have refused much of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA – *the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.*

In late-April, the Treasury published a special topic on our Alert Level economic impact assumptions. This can be viewed here: [WEU Special Topic – Alert Level Assumptions Refresh \(BEFU 2021\) \(treasury.govt.nz\)](#)

The Treasury has also done work on the economic and fiscal impacts of recent Alert Level decisions, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) will be proactively releasing Alert Level decision-making Cabinet papers which pull together advice from the Director-General of Health, Treasury, and other agencies.

This information will be released on the DPMC website here:  
<https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/proactive-release-cabinet-material>

The document listed below is also covered by your request and will soon be made publicly available on the Treasury website:

| <b>Item</b> | <b>Date</b>    | <b>Document Description</b>                        | <b>Website Address</b>  |
|-------------|----------------|--|---|
| 1.          | 19 August 2021 | Aide Memoire T2021/2126:<br>Review of Alert Levels | <a href="https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications">https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications</a> |

I have refused your request for this document, and the information mentioned above, under section 18(d) of the OIA: *the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.*

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

John Beaglehole  
**Manager, COVID-19 Economic Supports**