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7 September 2022

Harold

By email: fyi-request-17035-e25f68c1@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2022007882

Tēnā koe Harold,

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 19 July 2022 for information regarding meeting minutes and memos.

On 16 August 2022, a partial response was provided to you which also noted that the remaining parts of your request will be responded to in due course.

You requested:

For these two advisory groups:

- 1) COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group*
- 2) COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group*

I would like to request copies of:

- 1) All meeting minutes*

Please refer to Documents 1 to 11 for information in scope of this part of your request. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

- 2) All memos or reports they have produced dated since 28 March 2022.*

This part of your request was responded to on 16 August 2022.

...An "internal review" of the COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group is referred to (p.9). I would like to request a copy of this review.

Manatū Hauora has identified one document within scope of this part of your request. Please refer specifically to document 12 in Appendix 1. This document has been released to you in full.

I would also like to request copies of all advice provided to the Director General of Health on the topic of the future direction of COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group, dated since the beginning of February.

Information in response to this part of your request is withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers and officers and employees of any public service agency.

Finally, if the COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group and COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group Terms of Reference have been updated since August 2021, I would like to request copies of the current versions.

This part of your request was responded to on 16 August 2022.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatu Hauorā website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Henderson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Henderson
**Group Leader, Intelligence, Surveillance and Knowledge
Public Health Agency, Ministry of Health**

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

| # | Date | Document details | Decision on release |
|---|---------------|---|---|
| 1 | 3 May 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group | Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9(2)(k) to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage and; |
| 2 | 17 May 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group | |
| 3 | 31 May 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group | |
| 4 | 14 June 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group | Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> section 9(2)(k) section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials. |
| 5 | 12 July 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group | Some information withheld under section 9(2)(k) of the Act. |
| 6 | 8 April 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group Te Rōpū Haumanu Kowheori-19 | |
| 7 | 22 April 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group Te Rōpū Haumanu Kowheori-19 | |
| 8 | 11 May 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group Te Rōpū Haumanu Kowheori-19 | Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> section 9(2)(k) section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons and; section 9(2)(b)(ii) where its release would likely |

| # | Date | Document details | Decision on release |
|----|------------------|--|--|
| | | | unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information. |
| 9 | 20 May 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group Te Rōpū Haumanu Kowheori-19 | Some information withheld under section 9(2)(k) of the Act. |
| 10 | 3 June 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group Te Rōpū Haumanu Kowheori-19 | |
| 11 | 8 July 2022 | Minutes: COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group Te Rōpū Haumanu Kowheori-19 | |
| 12 | 14 February 2022 | Memo: Internal Review of COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group (CT TAG) for Purpose and Function | Released in full. |