



30 November 2021

Ref: DOIA 2122-0860

Chris Auld
fyi-request-17127-6f73dd30@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Chris

Thank you for your email of 11 October 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- “1. I request the data dictionary (https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FData_dictionary&data=04%7C01%7CMinisterialServices%40mbie.govt.nz%7C03ecc2d0415a4fbee3f508d98c4e9792%7C78b2bd11e42b47eab0112e04c3af5ec1%7C0%7C0%7C637695092047456284%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=8aesQo6XspNQgh8Qa872Bb87nvJk5Z8tWT8oOIkbtvk%3D&reserved=0) for each database or other data storage system used to store data related to the booking and operation of the Managed Isolation and Quarantine system. Where a system has been decommissioned, I request that you provide the data dictionary as at the date of that decommissioning.*
- 2. I request the change log (such as might be available in a software version control system) of all changes to the data dictionary for each database or other data storage system used to store information related to the booking and operation of the Managed Isolation and Quarantine system. For each database or data storage system I request this change log data starting from 1 January 2020, or from the date on which that system began storing data, whichever date is later.”*

The Ministry has interpreted your request to be for information related to the Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) booking system, which is called the Managed Isolation Allocation System (MIAS).

The Ministry contracted a third party supplier to build, develop and operate MIAS on the Ministry’s behalf on an ongoing basis. As a result, the Ministry does not maintain in house technical expertise or documentation for MIAS or its operating environment.

The information requested comprises of data that underpins elements of the MIAS system. It is the intellectual property of the third party supplier and is commercially valuable.

Making this commercially sensitive information available publicly, via a response under the Act, would prejudice the commercial position of the third party supplier and give competitors in the highly competitive IT industry insights into the methods of operation of the third party supplier. This in turn would disadvantage the third party supplier by allowing competitors to copy or emulate its work, which could lead to a loss of business or trade.

The Ministry, which needs to carry out commercial activity for MIAS and MIQ more broadly, believes the release of the information would damage the commercial relationship with the third party supplier. It could also negatively impact on the ability to carry out ongoing commercial negotiations with the third party supplier, especially if confidence in the Ministry is lost as it pertains to protecting commercially sensitive information that is subject to an obligation of confidence.

It has been assessed that the release of the data dictionary and structure of the system would also add a vulnerability with regards to system security. This outcome is not acceptable to the Ministry, and if it were to come about would result in damage to the public interest. Consequently, the Ministry deems it is not in the public interest to disclose the information sought.

Therefore, the information requested is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

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| section 9(2)(b)(ii) | would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information |
| section 9(2)(ba)(ii) | protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information— would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest |
| section 9(2)(i) | enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities |
| section 9(2)(j) | enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). |

I do not consider that the withholding of information from this response is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Christina Sophocleous-Jones
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Managed Isolation and Quarantine