

# Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



14 December 2021

M.R.M.

[fyi-request-17457-fdcfd368@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17457-fdcfd368@requests.fyi.org.nz)

C19OIA2021031

Dear MRM

## Official Information Act request regarding vaccine mandate for Government workers and vaccine status of Ministers of Parliament

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, transferred from the Ministry of Health on 9 November 2021. You requested:

- “1. Has the Government at any time considered or planned to mandate all Government workers in New Zealand to be Covid-19 double-vaccinated?”*
- “2. Has the P.M. and all members of parliament been double-vaccinated? If not, why not? And, if this information has not been collected, why not?”*

In response to your first question, the Government has not considered mandating all Government workers in New Zealand to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Being vaccinated against COVID-19 is mandatory for certain workforces due to the particular set of risk factors associated with the work they do, such as the population groups they work with. For further information on the vaccination programme, and a clarification on the workforces for which vaccination is mandatory, you can visit the following Ministry of Health website:

[health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-mandatory-vaccinations](https://health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-mandatory-vaccinations)

The Public Service Commission has published guidance providing for a consistent approach to implementing vaccination mandates, health and safety assessments in accordance with legislation, and evidential requirements and processes for requiring vaccination across Public Service agencies, while supporting the expectation that all public servants who can be vaccinated, are vaccinated. Further information is available on the Public Service Commission website:

[publicservice.govt.nz/resources/public-service-workforce-guidance-for-the-covid-19-protection-framework](https://publicservice.govt.nz/resources/public-service-workforce-guidance-for-the-covid-19-protection-framework)

In response to your second question regarding Members of Parliament vaccination status, Members of Parliament are not subject to the Act therefore, this part of your request is not considered a request for official information under the Act. However, I advise that I was vaccinated on 31 March 2021 and I am aware of other Ministers (including the Prime Minister) that have been publicly vaccinated. I do not hold information relating to all Members of Parliament.

If you would like information relating to Members of Parliament please contact the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt Hon Trevor Mallard, on the following website:

[parliament.nz/en/footer/about-us/office-of-the-clerk/about/who-we-are/](http://parliament.nz/en/footer/about-us/office-of-the-clerk/about/who-we-are/)

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', is positioned above the printed name.

Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister for COVID-19 Response**