

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Ashley Fechney
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Ref. CHOIA181

Dear Ashley

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 3 December 2021 for COVID-19 related documents.

The Ministry of Health and Border Executive Board documents you have requested are itemised in Appendix One to this letter, and copies of the documents are enclosed. The table in Appendix One also outlines the grounds under which I have decided to withhold information. Where information is withheld, this is noted in the document itself.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet documents you have requested will be proactively released on the Unite Against COVID-19 website by the end of March 2022. Once published they will be available at this address: covid19.govt.nz/about-our-covid-19-response/proactive-releases/

The Ministry of Transport paper you have requested has been proactively released and is available here: transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/OC210396-COVID-19-Vaccination-Requirements-at-the-Border.pdf

As these documents are either already publically available or soon will be, your request for those documents is refused under section 18(d) of the Act.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', written over a light blue circular watermark.

Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

Appendix One: Documents for release

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	10 February 2021	Briefing HR 20210182- Maximising uptake of COVID-19 vaccines in Tier 1	Some information withheld under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(b)(i) to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government, • Section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, • Section 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials, • 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 or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty and • Section 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.
2	28 April 2021	Briefing 20210940- COVID-19 Public Health response (Vaccinations) Order for signature.	Some information withheld under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9(2)(a) and • Section 9(2)(h).
3	4 June 2021	Briefing 20211235 – Final policy decisions required to draft amendments to COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) order	Some information withheld under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9(2)(a), • Section 9(2)(g)(i), and • Section 9(2)(h).
4	15 June 2021	Aide-Memoire HR20211390 – Further clarification on final policy decisions required to draft the amendments to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) order	Some information withheld under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9(2)(a) and • Section 9(2)(h).
5	8 July 2021	Briefing 20211520 – COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Amendment Order 2021 for signing	Some information withheld under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9(2)(a) and • Section 9(2)(h).

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
	19 February 2021	Implementing the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout to Border Workers	Some information withheld under: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 9(2)(a),• Section 9(2)(h), and• Section 9(2)(g)(i)