



2 February 2022

Annie Weston  
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Ref: OIA-2021/22-0765

Dear Annie Weston

**Official Information Act request relating to accountability for COVID-19 policy**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 15 December 2021. You requested:

*Who in the NZ Govt is ultimately responsible to the NZ public for ia/her/their/his Covid-19 policies please? By this I mean the person who will be held accountable.*

New Zealand's COVID-19 response is coordinated across multiple government agencies, with the Ministry of Health as the lead agency. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is responsible for integration of COVID-19 strategy and policy, system readiness and planning, insights and reporting, system risk and assurance, and public engagement and communications. DPMC also delivers a national communications and public engagement campaign.

The responsibilities of the Minister for COVID-19 Response, Hon Chris Hipkins, include all aspects of the government's ongoing health response to COVID-19, including matters relating to managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ), border management, testing and contact tracing systems, and managing any resurgence of the virus.

Ultimately, no one Minister of government has sole or ultimate responsibility for New Zealand's COVID-19 response.

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

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Barnes  
**Deputy Chief Executive  
COVID-19 Group**