

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Minister for COVID-19 Response
Minister of Research, Science and Innovation
Minister for Seniors
Associate Minister of Health



19 SEP 2022

Harold

fyi-request-19478-aa69130a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref. AVOIA38

Tēnā koe Harold

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 26 May 2022 for copies of documents relating to the COVID-19 response.

As you are aware, due to the volume of information in scope of your request, my office has decided to satisfy your request through a staged release to avoid delays in communicating a decision on your request. The first tranche, comprised of 20 documents, has already been released to you.

Appended to this letter are the remaining documents within scope 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.

Thank you for patience while we worked on this information release.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ayesha Verrall'.

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Minister for COVID-19 Response

Appendix 1: List of documents for release (Tranche 2)

#	Date received	Document ref #	Document type and title	Decision on release
1	21 December 2021	20212772	Briefing - COVID-19 vaccine booster doses and response to the Omicron variant	Withheld in full under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(b)(ii), where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information • 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. • 9(2)(j), to enable a Minister or any public service agency to carry out commercial activities without prejudice or disadvantage
2	8 January 2022	20220003	Briefing - Postponing commencement of new arrangements at the air border	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
3	8 January 2022	20220065	Briefing - COVID-19 Therapeutics Portfolio – funding to secure products for COVID-19 prevention and treatment	Some information withheld under the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a) • 9(2)(b)(ii) • 9(2)(f)(iv), to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
4	21 January 2022	20220023	Briefing - COVID-19 Vaccine Portfolio Update – January 2022	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii)
5	10 February 2022	20220175	Briefing - Proposed changes to managed isolation and quarantine settings in Phase Two and Phase	Released with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a); and

#	Date received	Document ref #	Document type and title	Decision on release
			Three of the Omicron response plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege
6	18 February 2022	20220038	Briefing - Further advice on expanding the influenza immunisation programme for 2022 in response to COVID-19	<p>Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(ba)(ii), to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely damage the public interest. 9(2)(j).
7	21 February 2022	20220254	Briefing - Requiring COVID-19 vaccine booster doses to maintain vaccination status in the New Zealand context	<p>Released with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9(2)(a); 9(2)(b)(ii)
8	28 February 2022	20220260	Briefing - COVID-19 Vaccines: Donating the remaining AstraZeneca and Janssen doses to the COVAX AMC	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
9	7 March 2022	20220324	Briefing - Implementing an enhanced and expanded Influenza immunisation programme for 2022 in response to COVID-19	<p>Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii) 9(2)(ba)(ii) 9(2)(j)
10	9 March 2022	20220272	Briefing - Purchase of additional COVID-19 vaccines from mRNA vaccine suppliers	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
11	6 April 2022	20220551	Briefing - Lifting importation and use restrictions on unapproved COVID-19 vaccines	<p>Released with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9(2)(a); 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
12	8 April 2022	20220573	Briefing - Concluding New Zealand's	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act

#	Date received	Document ref #	Document type and title	Decision on release
			purchase agreement with AstraZeneca	