



27 July 2022

Scott
fyi-request-19509-ddaa5459@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2021/22-1382

Dear Scott

Official Information Act request for COVID-19 Protection Framework and Vaccine Certificate review documents

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 30 May 2022. You requested:

“For the CVC review, it is stated that:

“Officials are continuing to progress the planned review of domestic COVID-19 Vaccine Certificates/My Vaccine Pass policy, which was intended to pick up any significant issues with the operation of the policy as well as any simple improvements that could be made... The timing of this review... is now tracking for late-February/early-March...”

And for the CPF review it is stated that:

“This work will be a wider review of the CPF as a whole and will assess some of the bigger picture questions about the Framework... The CPF review is on a slightly slower track than the COVID-19 Vaccine Certificates review (aiming to land this work in March)...”

I would like to request copies of both of these reviews.”

Throughout the pandemic, officials have kept our public health measures under review to ensure they are proportionate and supported by the latest evidence. Earlier in 2022, a more comprehensive review of My Vaccine Pass and the COVID-19 Protection Framework was commenced by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The timeframes for delivery for each review were originally planned for March and April/May 2022, respectively.

However, in March 2022, as we anticipated a move beyond the first peak of the Omicron outbreak, the reviews were fast-tracked to inform advice to Cabinet on the form of our COVID-19 response after the Omicron peak.

As a result, the product of these reviews was a Cabinet paper which considered the post-peak response strategy, including the continuing need for, and form of, the COVID-19 Protection Framework which incorporated My Vaccine Pass requirements.

The Cabinet paper *The COVID-19 Response after the Peak of Omicron* is therefore within scope of your request. This paper is publicly available on the Unite Against COVID-19 website:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/Proactive-Releases/Alert-levels-and-restrictions/13-July-2022/PO01-21032022-The-COVID-Response-After-the-Peak-of-Omicron.pdf>

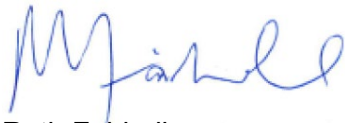
Accordingly, I have refused your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

I am, however, releasing to you a paper in part that provides an overview of the review undertaken by officials on the efficacy of the COVID-19 Protection Framework in the context of the Omicron outbreak. The information in this paper was used in the development of the Cabinet paper *The COVID-19 Response after the Peak of Omicron*. Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

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



Ruth Fairhall
**Deputy Chief Executive
COVID-19 Response**