

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

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



22 SEP 2022

Harry Peterson
fyi-request-19806-19a3f4c5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref. AVOIA91

Dear Harry

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), which was partially transferred from the Cabinet Office on 24 August 2022 for:

"All documents and Cabinet papers mentioning Whangarei in relation to infrastructure and health funding decisions from the date beginning October 2017"

I have identified one Cabinet paper within scope of this part of your request, titled 'COVID-19 Minimisation and Protection approach – changes to testing, case investigation and contact tracing'. This is being released to you with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(b)(ii), where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, and
- 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source.

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.

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 read 'Ayesha Verrall'.

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Minister for COVID-19 Response