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19 August 2022

Scout Barbour-Evans

By email: fyi-request-20000-d47787ea@requests.fyi.org.nz  
Ref: H2022008412

Tēnā koe Scout,

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 24 July 2022 for information regarding Long COVID.

I was sorry to read that you are living with Long COVID and I trust you are getting the support you need. If you need personal health information, you can call the COVID Healthline on 0800 3585453 at any time or contact your family doctor. Should you experience a medical emergency, you or anyone assisting in your care should not hesitate to call 111 and ask for an ambulance.

Turning to your request, you asked for:

1. *Any internal correspondence or documentation discussing matters like;*
  - a. *Which government authority/ministry should be in charge of social supports for long covid sufferers.*
  - b. *What proposed social supports there should be for long covid sufferers.*
  - c. *What medical supports are proposed for long covid sufferers eg: any standardised testing, referrals that should be made.*
  - d. *What financial cost will the above medical and social supports entail for not only current long covid sufferers, but future long covid sufferers too.*
  - e. *What recommendations have been made by both medical professionals and other health professionals about these supports both social and medical.*

On 3 August 2022, we contacted you in accordance with section 18B of the Act as your request asked for a very large volume of information. You refined your request to the following:

- Reports, key evidence and documentation regarding:*
- a. *Which government authority/ministry should be in charge of social supports for long covid sufferers.*
  - b. *What proposed social supports there should be for long covid sufferers.*
  - c. *What medical supports are proposed for long covid sufferers eg: any standardised testing, referrals that should be made.*
  - d. *What financial cost will the above medical and social supports entail for not only current long covid sufferers, but future long covid sufferers too.*
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*e. What recommendations have been made by both medical professionals and other health professionals about these supports both social and medical.*

Seven documents have been identified within the scope of your request. The documents are itemised in Appendix 1 and have been released to you in full. These cover literature reviews and research to inform the Manatū Hauora work programme, and a scoping review of current and emerging best practice for Long COVID rehabilitation.

In addition, there is a range of publicly available information that may be of interest:

- Information on the definition, symptoms, treatment and management of Long COVID can be found at: [www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/about-covid-19/long-covid](http://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/about-covid-19/long-covid).
- Information on Manatū Hauora work on Long COVID, including the scope of the work programme and sector updates can be found at: [www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/about-covid-19/long-covid#understand](http://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/about-covid-19/long-covid#understand).
- Guidance for the Acute Phase of Rehabilitation of People with or Recovering from COVID-19 in Aotearoa New Zealand can be found at: [www.health.govt.nz/publication/guidance-acute-phase-rehabilitation-people-or-recovering-covid-19-aotearoa-new-zealand](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/guidance-acute-phase-rehabilitation-people-or-recovering-covid-19-aotearoa-new-zealand).

Additionally, Manatū Hauora expects to publish rehabilitation and service guidelines for Long COVID on its website in the next month.

Given the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is responsible for social supports, you may wish to contact MSD for additional information at: [oiia\\_requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:oiia_requests@msd.govt.nz)

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



Martin Chadwick  
**Chief Allied Health Professions Officer**  
**Allied Health Professions Office**

## Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	October 2021	Current and emerging best practice for Long COVID rehabilitation in context of a multidisciplinary team involving allied, scientific, and technical professions: a scoping review	Released in full.
2	January 2022	Request for Advice – Long COVID information for Care in the Community	
3	January 2022	Long COVID Services Report for Northern Region	
4	February 2022	Request for Advice – Long COVID Evidence Update	
5	May 2022	Request for Advice – Long COVID Evidence Update.	
6	July 2022	Request for Advice – Long COVID Evidence Update.	
7	August 2022	Request for Advice – Long COVID Evidence Update.	