



13 October 2022

Harold

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Ref: OIA-2022/23-0060

Dear Harold

**Official Information Act request relating to scenario planning conducted by the COVID-19 Group Readiness & Planning Team and other COVID-19 scenario planning**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 18 August 2022.

On 31 August 2022, an official from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) contacted you to ask if you would consider narrowing the scope of your request to a specific document or subject due to the number of documents you requested. You were advised that without this clarification, your request would likely be refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

You replied with the following refinement of your request:

*"ONE: The minutes of a 28 September 2021 meeting of the COVID-19 National Response Group refers to 'worst case scenario' planning:*

*"The Chair updated NRG that the DPMC Readiness & Planning Team will be hosting 'worst case scenario' planning in case the tail of the Auckland outbreak is not contained." The meeting minutes can be accessed here (quote on p.13, para 7):*

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffyi.org.nz%2Frequest%2F17765%2Fresponse%2F75491%2Fattach%2F4%2FFOR%2520RELEASE%2520of%2520of%2520OIA%25202021%252022%25200684.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cinformation%40dpmc.govt.nz%7C00b4805d018b4a091fab08da8ae54542%7Ceea6053309ef4b7a94060f38551cc613%7C0%7C0%7C637975016414614434%7CUnknown%7CTWfPbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljoiv2luMzIiLCJBTiI6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Cq%2BT9guANRwUjbeKwhmiU9p0q41Kfd3onOHB2BXMMx0%3D&reserved=0>

*I would like to request a copy of any agenda or other document prepared for this planning, and any documents reporting its outcomes. If the outcomes and recommendations stemming from this planning were reported to the COVID-19 Chief Executives Board, I would like to request a copy of this report or presentation.*



Date	Document description	Question #
3 October 2021	National Response Group Meeting: COVID-19: Domestic response, operation updates regarding AL 3 and 2 in effect and new cases reported in the community in Waikato	Two
5 October 2021	National Response Group Meeting: COVID-19: Domestic response, operation updates regarding AL 3 and 2 in effect and new cases reported in the community in Waikato	Two
15 December 2021	Summer Readiness and Planning Workshop Agenda	Two
15 December 2021	Sumer readiness and planning workshop A3	Two
15 December 2021	COVID-19 Protection Framework over summer– Operationalising the minimise and protect strategy	Two
15 December 2021	Working timeline of key decisions A3	Two
11 January 2022	Invite – Workshop: preparing for Omicron	Three
11 January 2022	Agenda: Omicron Workshop	Three
11 January 2022	Impacts on Supply Chains in the Omicron Context	Three
13 January 2022	Summary of National Response Group Omicron Workshop	Three
13 January 2022	DPMC Timeline, Challenges and Considerations for Omicron – A3	Three
17 February 2022	Report Back on Agency Preparations for Omicron Phase 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annex A: Omicron “Phase Three” Workshop</li> <li>• Annex B: Preparations for the impacts of Omicron in Phase 3</li> </ul>	Four

Regarding Part One of your request, no workshops relating to worst case scenario planning though the National Response Group were held that match what you have requested. As no information can be identified, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist, or cannot be found.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

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

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Casey', with a long, sweeping underline.

Katrina Casey  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**COVID-19 Response**