



Date: 20 September 2022

Craig BISHOP  
fyi-request-20278-8ada4458@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Craig Bishop

### **Request for information under the Official Information Act**

Thank you for your request dated 18 August 2022 to the Ministry of Health in which you request the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- all Border Committee Minutes from the beginning of the Covid-19 response to the present day. For example early January 2020 - August 2022.

On 24 August 2022, your request was transferred to the Border Executive Board.

Decisions regarding the inclusion of border and health workers in the scope of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Order 2020, the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccination) Order 2020 and the associated amendments were made by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Health. The border agencies were consulted during the drafting of these pieces of legislation.

The Border Executive Board (Board) started on 11 January 2021. The Board did not make individual decisions regarding the application of these Orders; these decisions were individual employment decisions made by border agencies. Applications to be exempt from these Orders were made to the Director-General of Health. The Board undertook a co-ordination and assurance role regarding implementation and compliance with the requirements stemming from the COVID-19 Public Health Orders for border workers only.

Please find attached Border Executive Board minutes from 13 January 2021 to 22 September 2021; it was common for discussions regarding the implementation and compliance with the Vaccination and Testing orders to take place at Board meetings and a record of these discussions can be found within the minutes of Board meetings.

Board updates to the Minister for the COVID-19 Response Weekly reports from 1 July 2021 have been pro-actively released on the [Unite Against COVID-19](#) webpage. These updates included information about the discussions at Board meetings as well as updates from other border agencies regarding the COVID-19 response. These updates may provide more of the information that you are looking for. The weekly updates to the COVID-19 Response Minister will continue to be proactively released.

The Board scaled down its assurance role following the deadline for border workers to have received a second vaccination dose on 4 November 2021. From 12 November 2021, reporting on vaccination rates and compliance was provided by the Ministry of Health Border Workforce Register dashboard. The Board does not hold this information.

With the Reconnecting New Zealanders to the World steps to re-opening coming into force in February 2022, the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) order was revoked on 30 June 2022.

The Unite Against COVID-19 webpage also contains [documents relating to border decisions](#) including the Health decisions, domestic and international travel restrictions and the Reconnecting New Zealanders programme.

The reviews of COVID-19 Border Measures in Maritime and Aviation, the review of Border Worker Testing and Vaccination in Maritime and Aviation and the rapid review of Border Worker Testing in MIQ have been [proactively released](#) on the Border Executive Board webpage.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right, by way of complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available online at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or alternatively the Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted on 0800 802 602.

I also wish to advise that the Border Executive Board Secretariat may proactively release responses to Official Information Act requests on the Board Executive Board page hosted on the Customs' website. As such, this response, without your name and contact details, may be published on the website after it has been sent to you.

If you have any queries about this response, please contact the Border Executive Board Secretariat at [BEB.info@customs.govt.nz](mailto:BEB.info@customs.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Christine Stevenson  
**Chair of the Border Executive Board**

Encl: Border Executive Board minutes