



29 September 2022

J Bruning  
fyi-request-20604-68be72f4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2022/23-0154

Dear J Bruning

**Official Information Act request for the reasons to extend the special powers under an Epidemic Notice**

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act (the Act), received on 18 September 2022. You requested:

*“Epidemic Preparedness (COVID-19) Notice 2020 Renewal Notice (No 3) 2022.  
[https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgazette.govt.nz%2Fassets%2Fpdf-cache%2F2022%2F2022-sl3849.pdf%3F2022-09-13\\_09%253A54%253A58%3D&data=05%7C01%7Cinformation%40dpmc.govt.nz%7C450ab8e4d95d41d1db3108da9930b2dd%7Ceea6053309ef4b7a94060f38551cc613%7C0%7C0%7C637990732118449810%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjA%7CwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Q7057gwzfd9YbYMtnYsjqmMYJ%2BC0xm5gu0FrG4UsSZ0%3D&reserved=0](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgazette.govt.nz%2Fassets%2Fpdf-cache%2F2022%2F2022-sl3849.pdf%3F2022-09-13_09%253A54%253A58%3D&data=05%7C01%7Cinformation%40dpmc.govt.nz%7C450ab8e4d95d41d1db3108da9930b2dd%7Ceea6053309ef4b7a94060f38551cc613%7C0%7C0%7C637990732118449810%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjA%7CwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Q7057gwzfd9YbYMtnYsjqmMYJ%2BC0xm5gu0FrG4UsSZ0%3D&reserved=0)*

*This Gazette notice dated 12th day of September 2022, extends the March 24, 2020 notice (the principal notice) here:*

*[https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgazette.govt.nz%2Fassets%2Fpdf-cache%2F2020%2F2020-go1368.pdf%3F2020-12-17\\_22%253A55%253A25%3D&data=05%7C01%7Cinformation%40dpmc.govt.nz%7C450ab8e4d95d41d1db3108da9930b2dd%7Ceea6053309ef4b7a94060f38551cc613%7C0%7C0%7C637990732118449810%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjA%7CwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vtVnUcOP0uVi0m9pe74emqyz0BJmrVam5q2Yr79Grhg%3D&reserved=0](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgazette.govt.nz%2Fassets%2Fpdf-cache%2F2020%2F2020-go1368.pdf%3F2020-12-17_22%253A55%253A25%3D&data=05%7C01%7Cinformation%40dpmc.govt.nz%7C450ab8e4d95d41d1db3108da9930b2dd%7Ceea6053309ef4b7a94060f38551cc613%7C0%7C0%7C637990732118449810%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjA%7CwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vtVnUcOP0uVi0m9pe74emqyz0BJmrVam5q2Yr79Grhg%3D&reserved=0)*

*In Gazette notice you state that you are:*

*'satisfied that the effects of the outbreak of COVID-19 are likely to continue to disrupt essential governmental and business activity in New Zealand significantly'*

*The Ministry of Health states: 'An Epidemic Notice is a public policy tool to help Government agencies respond swiftly and effectively in a rapidly evolving situation. An epidemic notice enables the use of a number of 'special powers' in legislation.'*

*Please supply all evidence you relied on, and the reasons for your decision in extending the powers put in place March 24, 2020.”*

I believe that the information you have requested is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer your request to the Ministry.

The Ministry of Health has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Noonan".

Margaret Noonan  
**Team Leader Ministerial Services**