



19 December 2022

Ref: OIA 2223-0593

J Bruning

Email: [fyi-request-20639-e9f6ff7a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-20639-e9f6ff7a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe J Bruning

Thank you for your email of 22 September to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. Please supply all advice, reports and memos including risk updates from strategy and management consultancy firms including but not limited to: PWC/Deloitte/Boston Consulting Group/McKinsey -Supplied to the MBIE from November 2019 to April 1 2022 relating to COVID-19 pandemic.*

*This includes, but is not limited to, information and advice in the form of reports, memos and appendices from contracted and non-contracted firms.*

*This includes but is not limited to:*

- a) Risk strategy relating to virus, population management.*
  - b) Unite Against COVID-19 campaign development and deployment.*
  - c) Data and research recommendations*
  - d) Vaccine strategy*
  - e) Passport and Unite against COVID-19 campaign*
  - f) Behavioural data insights to ensure campaign goals were achieved*
- 2. Please identify and provide details of costs paid to - including but not limited to: PWC/Deloitte/Boston Consulting Group/McKinsey - from November 2019 to April 1 2022 relating to COVID-19 pandemic for COVID-19 and related services.*

On 21 October 2022, MBIE extended the time to respond to your request until 19 December 2022. We advised you that the extension was necessary because your request necessitated a search through a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with our operations. As we were still collating the information and assessing for relevance, we also advised that consultations may be necessary to make a decision on your request.

In that same correspondence, MBIE advised you that we were focusing our searches and collation on the four named consultancy firms in your request, as well as the topics you had specified. We also advised that we considered that the final report/end document that MBIE has tasked a consultancy firm to produce would be the relevant in-scope material for this request. We asked if you did not agree with the parameters set out in the extension letter to please advise. As we have not heard from you we have proceeded based on the above.

Our response to your request is outlined below.

We can confirm that there is no information that falls in scope of your request. We are therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information sought in scope of your request does not exist. We conducted an extensive, MBIE-wide search for information in relation to the confirmed scope of your request (i.e. information relating to the four named consultancy firms in your request for services that are (or are similar to) the topics that you have specified).

Given MBIE's size and breadth, and the fact that the Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) function falls under MBIE's responsibilities, when we communicated the need for an extension to you on 21 October 2022 we thought that there was a possibility that far more information may be in scope than ended up being the case. With the completion of our internal search efforts, we can confirm that contracts we thought may fall in scope (MIQ or otherwise) were either operational in nature, not with one of the four specified consultancy firms in your request, or were otherwise not (or not similar to) the topics you had specified in your request – which we took to mean topics relating to a broad, national strategy regarding the COVID-19 pandemic response.

To cover any additional contracts beyond the scope we have confirmed with you, we invite you to read MBIE's published Annual Reviews from 2019/20 to 2021/22 – particularly Question 68 of each Annual Review, which lists all contractors, consultants and professional services with which MBIE has engaged, whose contracts amounted to \$10,000 or more. The Annual Reviews also provide a description of the type of work involved with each provider. Links to the previous three MBIE Annual Reviews are provided below.

- 2021/22 Response to Written Questions – [www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED\\_EVI\\_127454\\_ED11316/8619ba8563641b0359c7638ecfa9347d13314434](http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED_EVI_127454_ED11316/8619ba8563641b0359c7638ecfa9347d13314434)
- 2021/22 Contractor and Consultant Appendix – [www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED\\_EVI\\_127454\\_ED11314/70434b7e07b150b62a318abf19731b7ef83ac5fa](http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED_EVI_127454_ED11314/70434b7e07b150b62a318abf19731b7ef83ac5fa)
- 2020/21 Response to Written Questions – [www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED\\_EVI\\_127454\\_ED11316/8619ba8563641b0359c7638ecfa9347d13314434](http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED_EVI_127454_ED11316/8619ba8563641b0359c7638ecfa9347d13314434)
- 2020/21 Contractor and Consultant Appendix – [www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED\\_EVI\\_119680\\_ED8679/afb27f6a0e154e9e1197b3b455d79e4e7cce1f63](http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED_EVI_119680_ED8679/afb27f6a0e154e9e1197b3b455d79e4e7cce1f63)
- 2019/20 Response to Written Questions – [www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED\\_EVI\\_104246\\_ED330/c50d4c4d9b5db186a908a2ebaaf68942f70e33a4](http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED_EVI_104246_ED330/c50d4c4d9b5db186a908a2ebaaf68942f70e33a4)
- 2019/20 Contractor and Consultant Appendix (see page 96 for Appendix 21, Question 68) – [www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED\\_EVI\\_104246\\_ED329/75f68607b001be2e9b21096da7cc57349de29bbb](http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED_EVI_104246_ED329/75f68607b001be2e9b21096da7cc57349de29bbb)

Should you see any contracts in the above-linked Annual Review responses and appendices that you would like further information on, you are welcome to make a new information request under the Act at [OIA@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@mbie.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Glen Jenkins

**Business Director, Group Operations**  
Finance and Performance