

1 December 2022

J Bruning

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OIA 28335

Tēnā koe J Bruning

I refer to your email of 22 September 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"Please supply all cabinet papers, memoranda, and reports received by officials and Ministers regarding an 'International Travel Vaccination Certificate'.*

*This includes all information internally produced by agencies and government officials, as well information and advice received from the WHO, United Nations agencies, from GAVI, CEPI and COVAX; from the World Economic Forum as well as from management consultancy firms.*

*Please advise all known countries who have integrated International Travel Vaccination Certificate into their policies and procedures currently, and countries for which this plan is underway."*

On 6 October 2022, you were informed that your request for information was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) as the information you have requested is more closely connected to the functions of the Ministry.

On 18 October 2022, we contacted you regarding the scope of your request and to see if you would refine your request. On 19 October 2022, you agreed to the following refinement:

*Cabinet Papers, Memoranda and Reports prepared by MFAT sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding New Zealand's international travel vaccination certificate.*

*Please advise all known countries who have integrated International Travel Vaccination Certificate into their policies and procedures currently, and countries for which this plan is underway.*

On 4 November 2022, you were informed that the timeframe for responding to your request for information was being extended by 25 working days, to 9 December 2022. Thank you for your patience while we processed your request.

Regarding your second query, Aotearoa New Zealand's International Travel Vaccination Certificate is integrated into the European Union's Digital COVID Certificate system (the EU DCC). A list of countries which have currently integrated the EU DCC into their national systems can be accessed at the following location: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/safe-covid-19-vaccines-europeans/eu-digital-covid-certificate\\_en#recognition-by-the-eu-of-covid-certificates-issued-by-third-non-eu-countries](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/safe-covid-19-vaccines-europeans/eu-digital-covid-certificate_en#recognition-by-the-eu-of-covid-certificates-issued-by-third-non-eu-countries).

The Ministry does not hold information regarding countries which have plans underway to integrate with the EU DCC. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information you have requested does not exist.

Please find the information relevant to the remainder of your request attached. We have withheld some information under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(ii): to protect the passing of information from an international organisation on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, we have identified no public interest in releasing the information that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) and enclosed documents on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Owen Thornber  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade