Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Minister for COVID-19 Response Minister of Research, Science and Innovation Minister for Seniors

Associate Minister of Health



0 8 DEC 2022

Sebastian

mailto:fyi-request-21060-89641381@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref. AVOIA140

Tēnā koe Sebastian,

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 7 November 2022, for:

- 1) The report from the Ministry of Health, Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Agency on the topic of "Readiness of the health and disability system, including testing modality and capacity requirements, contact tracing approach, resource requirements" (paragraph 16 of CAB-22-MIN-0223). This report was scheduled for August.
- 2) The report from the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry of Health on the topic of "How self-isolation and quarantine of international arrivals will be managed as an interim measure" (paragraph 19 of CAB-22-MIN-0223). This report was scheduled for August.
- 3) The report from the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry of Health on the topic of "Potential measures to support improved ventilation" (paragraph 17 of CAB-22-MIN-0223). This report was scheduled for October.
- 4) The report received 8 September regarding the Epidemic Notice, HR20221395.

I will answer each question in turn.

1) The report from the Ministry of Health, Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Agency on the topic of "Readiness of the health and disability system, including testing modality and capacity requirements, contact tracing approach, resource requirements" (paragraph 16 of CAB-22-MIN-0223). This report was scheduled for August.

This report, titled *Health System Readiness and Response to Variants of Concern (HNZ00003850*), is partially released to you.

Some information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons,
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers and officers and employees of any public service, and

- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.
- 2) The report from the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry of Health on the topic of "How self-isolation and quarantine of international arrivals will be managed as an interim measure" (paragraph 19 of CAB-22-MIN-0223). This report was scheduled for August.

This report, titled *Quarantine & Isolation Capability: Self-Quarantine Framework RNZ Revisited*, is released to you in full.

Please find these two documents attached to this letter.

3) The report from the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry of Health on the topic of "Potential measures to support improved ventilation" (paragraph 17 of CAB-22-MIN-0223). This report was scheduled for October.

This report is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

4) The report received 8 September regarding the Epidemic Notice, HR20221395.

This information is refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act, as it is publicly available on the Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) website at:

www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/information-release/h2022013681 response.pdf

I trust this information fulfils your request.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Office of the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Minister for COVID-19 Response