

30 October 2023

Erika Whittome  
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Tēnā koe Ms Whittome

Thank you for your email of 11 September 2023 to Oranga Tamariki— Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding COVID-19.

On 4 October 2023, we advised you that we were extending your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as the consultations necessary to make a decision on this request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made with the original time limited. I apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

I have addressed each of your questions below.

*[...] I refer you to my previous OIA, in this you said: 17 employees for non-compliance with the vaccination mandates/requirements (refusal to be vaccinated).*

*Have you hired all of these 17 staff back?*

As at 1 October 2023, three of the 17 employees have been re-employed by Oranga Tamariki.

*What budget was allocated for Covid 19?*

Oranga Tamariki was funded \$25 million from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF).

*What designations did Oranga Tamariki receive under section 191 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 in order to act as a regulator for health and safety matters?*

Designations must be publicly notified in the New Zealand Gazette. Information about publication in the New Zealand Gazette can be found [here](#) and [here](#). We are unable to locate information relating to your request either internally or through the New Zealand Gazette. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, on the grounds that the information does not exist or cannot be found.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

I trust the information provided is useful. I encourage you to raise any concerns about the response with [OIA\\_Requests@ot.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz). Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman by contacting them on 0800 802 602 or at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



Cassandra Anderson  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**People, Culture and Enabling Services**