

16 October 2023

Erika Whittome
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By email
Our ref: F33349

Dear Erika

Response to your information request – COVID 19 information

I refer to your email of 11 September 2023 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

“1. What budget was allocated for Covid 19 health and safety activities at Maritime New Zealand for the 2021/2022 financial year? For example Covid advisors, Covid risk specialist roles etc

2. How many exemptions were given under clause 9 of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 (version as of 25 Oct 2021). I will copy and paste from that clause:

Clause 9 Chief executive may authorise affected persons not vaccinated to carry out certain work

(2) A chief executive may authorise an affected person who has not been vaccinated to carry out certain work if the work—

(a) is unanticipated, necessary, and time-critical and cannot be carried out by a person who is vaccinated; and

(b) must be carried out to prevent the ceasing of operations.

(3) An affected person who is authorised to carry out certain work under subclause (2) may be authorised to re-enter as many times as is necessary to complete the work.

(4) An affected person may enter any place without approval if they need to enter to preserve or protect a person’s life, health, or safety in an emergency.

(5) In this clause, chief executive,—

(a) in relation to a worker at a managed isolation facility or a managed quarantine facility, means the chief executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment:

(b) in relation to a worker who is not a service worker and who works at an affected port or on board an affected ship, means the Director of Maritime New Zealand:

3 What designations did Maritime New Zealand 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?”

On 13 September 2023, we emailed to seek clarification of Part 1 of your request. You responded on 18 September 2023, and clarified that your request is for any COVID-19 specific roles at Maritime NZ for the 2021/22 financial year (internally- and externally-focused).

Maritime NZ provided significant externally-focused input to support the all-of-government COVID-19 response. Our role was to provide expertise on various maritime matters, including the reopening of the maritime border, ship isolation requirements and crew changes. This work was led within Maritime NZ by its COVID-19 Response and Recovery Team. The total cost of the roles in Maritime NZ's COVID-19 Response and Recovery team for the 2021/22 financial year was \$1,02m. Where possible, roles were filled by internal secondment within Maritime NZ.

Maritime NZ managed its own internal organisational response to COVID-19 within its normal health and safety and wider corporate functions (e.g. support for remote work). No additional or dedicated roles were established to manage this aspect of our COVID-19 work.

In relation to Part 2 of your request, Maritime NZ did not grant any exemptions on medical grounds under the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021.

In response to Part 3 of your request, under section 191 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA), Maritime NZ is a designated agency under the HSWA and may perform all the functions and exercise all the powers of the regulator under HSWA in respect of:

- (1) Work on board ships; and
- (2) Ships as workplaces.

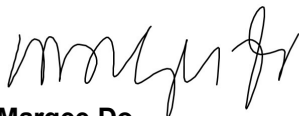
An extension to this designation will take effect from 1 July 2024 to cover:

- (3) Work at major ports and at ports used in connection with the Cook Strait inter-island ferries; and
- (4) Major ports as workplaces and ports used in connection with the Cook Strait inter-island ferries, as workplaces.

More information can be found here: <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2023-go3992>

Under section 28(3) of the (OIA), you have the right to ask 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.

Yours sincerely



Margee Do
Principal Advisor
Communications and Ministerial Services