



27 September 2024

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Tēnā koe John,

**Your Official Information Act 1982 request reference OIA 2425-0200**

I am responding to your email of 30 August 2024 to Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) requesting information, appended below, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

**All documentation, minutes of meetings, e-mails, and risk assessments for Grant Illingworth KC, Judy Kavanagh, and Anthony Hill**

There are 14 documents that fall within the scope of your request. A list of these documents can be found in **Table one** below.

I am partially releasing seven documents. Some information has been 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 free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members or an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty;
- 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment; and
- 18(c)(i), as making available the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment.

The documents being released are attached as **Appendix A**.

I am also withholding seven documents under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a);
- 9(2)(g)(i); and
- 18(d), as the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Additionally, certain notations, such as in-confidence designations, have been redacted for administrative purposes.

## **Response to your request**

Grant Illingworth KC, Anthony Hill, and Judy Kavanagh provided information to the Department to support consideration of their appointment, which has informed the response to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7.

### **Question 1: work for, or interests in, any pharmaceutical companies or corporation**

The candidates did not identify that they have worked for or have interests in any pharmaceutical companies or corporations.

### **Question 2: family with financial interests with any pharmaceutical companies or corporations**

The candidates did not identify that they have family with financial interests with any pharmaceutical companies or corporations.

### **Question 3: connection or collaboration with Sir Ashley Bloomfield, Dame Jacinda Ardern, Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, or Fepulea'i Margie Apa**

The candidates did not identify that they have connection or collaboration with Sir Ashley Bloomfield, Dame Jacinda Ardern, Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, or Fepulea'i Margie Apa.

### **Question 4: information supplied to Sir Ashley Bloomfield, Dame Jacinda Ardern, Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, or Fepulea'i Margie Apa with regards New Zealand 's Covid-19 response**

The candidates did not identify that they have supplied information to Sir Ashley Bloomfield, Dame Jacinda Ardern, Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, or Fepulea'i Margie Apa.

### **Question 5: salary or package offered to Grant Illingworth KC, Judy Kavanagh, and Anthony Hill**

Grant Illingworth KC receives a daily fee of \$1,680 as the Chair of the Royal Commission. Judy Kavanagh and Anthony Hill each receive a daily fee of \$1,620 as members of the Royal Commission. These fees were set by Cabinet in December 2022. They are 20 percent higher than the daily fees for members of other recent royal commissions.

### **Question 6: minimisation or elimination of any declared conflicts of interest**

Based on the information provided to the Department by the Chair and Commissioners, minimisation or elimination of any conflicts of interest were not required.

### **Question 7: financial or commercial interest with the Ministry of Health, Medsafe, Pharmac, or other government services**

The candidates did not identify that they have financial or commercial interest with the Ministry of Health, Medsafe, Pharmac, or other government services.

## **Access to the Ombudsman**

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek a review of my decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz).

## **Proactive release of this response**

We intend to publish our response to your request on [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz). This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the Act's purpose of enabling effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of Ministers and officials.

Nāku noa, nā



Jeremy Cauchi

**Director, Ministerial and Monitoring**

**Table one: Documents in scope**

#	Document name	Document date	Released for withheld	Reason for withholding
1	[Cabinet paper] Phase 2 of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons	Undated	Withheld	18(d)
2	[Cabinet minute] Phase 2 of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons	26 August 2024	Withheld	18(d)
3	[Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee Minute] Phase 2 of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons	21 August 2024	Withheld	18(d)
4	[Briefing] Talking points for Cabinet Committee: Phase 2 of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons	16 August 2024	Extract	-
5	[Briefing] Draft Cabinet paper: Phase 2 of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons	1 August 20214	Extract	-
6	[Email chain] Forms for Royal Commission member notification	30 to 31 July 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
7	[Attachment 1 to Document 2] Appointment Disclosure form		Partially released	9(2)(a)
8	[Attachment 2 to Document 2] Candidate CV form		Withheld	9(2)(a)
9	[Email chain] Forms for Royal Commission candidate nomination	1 to 24 July 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(g)(ii)
10	[Email] COVID-19 RC candidate for second phase Judy Kavanagh	24 July 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(ii)
11	[Attachment 1 to Document 5] COVID-19 RC candidate for second phase Judy Kavanagh		Withheld	9(2)(g)(i)
12	[Email chain] Second Phase Covid Royal Commission – Expression of Interest – Confidential	16 to 17 July 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(ii)
13	Appointment disclosure form – Kavanagh	4 July 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
14	Appointment disclosure form – Illingworth	24 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 18(c)(i)

## **Appendix: Information request**

*“Can you please supply all documentation, minutes of meetings, e-mails, risk assessments for Grant Illingworth (Chair), Judy Kavanagh (Commissioner) and Anthony Hill (Commissioner) for the Covid-19 Royal Inquiry role, including;*

- 1) Does Grant Illingworth (Chair), Judy Kavanagh (Commissioner) and Anthony Hill (Commissioner) work for or have interests in any Pharmaceutical Companies/Corporations currently and in the past? If so, who and what these interests are?*
- 2) Does Grant Illingworth (Chair), Judy Kavanagh (Commissioner) and Anthony Hill (Commissioner) have any family with financial interest with any Pharmaceutical Companies/Corporations? If so, who and what these interests are?*
- 3) Does Grant Illingworth (Chair), Judy Kavanagh (Commissioner) and Anthony Hill (Commissioner) currently have, or had in the past, any connection and / or collaboration with Ashley Bloomfield, Jacinda Ardern, Chris Hipkins or Margie Apa? If so, please supply any and all communications.*
- 4) Has Grant Illingworth (Chair), Judy Kavanagh (Commissioner) and Anthony Hill (Commissioner) supplied any information to Ashley Bloomfield, Jacinda Ardern, Chris Hipkins or Margie Apa with regards NZ 's Covid-19 response? If so, please supply any and all such communications.*
- 5) What salary / package has been offered to Grant Illingworth (Chair), Judy Kavanagh (Commissioner) and Anthony Hill (Commissioner) and how does this compare with similar roles?*
- 6) If any conflicts of interest were identified then please supply all documentation showing minimisation and /or elimination of the conflicts of interest.*
- 7) Does Grant Illingworth (Chair), Judy Kavanagh (Commissioner) and Anthony Hill (Commissioner) have any financial and / or commercial interest with Ministry of Health, Medsafe, Pharmac and / or other Government Services (International or NZ)?”*