



15 November 2022

Harold
fyi-request-20742-17924bed@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0198

Dear Harold

Official Information Act request relating to Catalogue of COVID-19 Response Measures and Variant of Concern exercise

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 4 October 2022. Your request was:

"I would like to make a request for the following documents referenced in the DPMC Briefing to the Incoming Minister for COVID-19 Response Ayesha Verrall:

ONE: On page 9 of the BIM, a "Catalogue of COVID-19 Response Measures" is referenced:

"Current readiness work includes ensuring the system is briefed on (through the NRG) health system planning for variants of concern and the development of the "Catalogue of COVID-19 Response Measures"."

I would like to request a copy of this "Catalogue of COVID-19 Response Measures".

TWO: On page 9 a COVID-19 variant of concern-related readiness exercise is referenced:

"...This includes ensuring that agencies are aware of their responsibilities should any of these measures be required in the future to respond to variants of concern. DPMC will support agencies to undertake this work, including via leading an exercise to ensure system readiness to respond to a new variant of concern preceding any transition of All of Government response functions from DPMC to health entities. A report on this exercise will be provided to you."

If this "new variant of concern" readiness exercise has been conducted, I would like to request a copy of the report produced summarising its outcomes – either the report for Minister Verrall referred to above if one was created, or if one wasn't whatever report was produced that summarises the outcomes of the exercise."

Information being released

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the document listed below, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(h) of the Act, to maintain legal professional privilege.

| Item | Date | Document Description/Subject |
|------|----------------|--|
| 1. | 26 August 2022 | COVID-19 Response Measures March 2020 to August 2022 |

Information publicly available

The following information is also covered by your request and will soon be publicly available on the DPMC website:

| Item | Date | Document Title | Website Address |
|------|----------------|--|---|
| 1. | 26 August 2022 | Report: All of Government COVID-19 System Readiness Exercise | https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications |

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the document listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey
Deputy Chief Executive
COVID-19 Response