



29 October 2020

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Tēnā koe Andrew

Your official information request, reference OIA20/21-0211

Thank you for your email of 6 October 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

A copy of any reports, briefings, documents, or correspondence prepared in relation to:

- 1. Planning around continued trials and deployment of the proposed CovidCard; and*
- 2. Planning around media coverage about the proposed CovidCard, and the role of private individuals in promoting the card.*

This request excludes documents already made available in the 02 October 2020 Proactive Release.

Five documents were found within scope of your request. These documents are being withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials. A list of the document titles is attached.

I note that while the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) led the initial phase of testing, including communications and media engagement planning, the Ministry of Health is now leading the work.

I appreciate there is high public interest in this issue. As you note in your request, the Department has published a suite of key documents on its website. I anticipate further documents will be published in due course.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman by phone on 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Anita Balakrishnan
Director Ministerial Advice, Monitoring, and Operations

Appendix A: Documents withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982

#	Date	Type of document	Name of document
1.	8 October 2020	Joint Health/DIA report	Update on CovidCard Trials
2.	25 September 2020	Joint Health/DIA report	Update on CovidCard Trials
3.	13 May 2020	DIA Draft Communications Plan	DIA Bluetooth card interim communications and engagement
4.		A3	Draft PR and public awareness campaign for Bluetooth COVID-19 card
5.		Draft talking points and draft press release	Communications plan for the next phase of work on the CovidCard