



12 February 2021

Andrew Chen
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Tēnā koe Mr Chen

Your official information request, reference OIA20/21-0368

Thank you for your email of 23 December 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Now that I believe enough time has passed, I'd like to resubmit my previous application for information about the proposed CovidCard, including any reports, briefings, documents, or correspondence prepared in relation to:

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

A previous OIA request had identified five documents that were refused at the time:

- 1) 8 October: Joint Health/DIA report Update on CovidCard Trials*
- 2) 25 September: 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*

If there are any further documents that have been produced since the previous OIA request, I would like those to be included as well, noting that the CovidCard project was transferred to Ministry of Health at some point around this time.

I am releasing the five documents from your previous request with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of individuals;
- 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials.



There is one further document within scope that has been produced since your previous request. I am withholding *Interim report in response to Cabinet directive – Using the CovidCard to improve contact tracing (30 October 2020)* in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.

Officials from the Department of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health are assessing the results of the Ngongotahā trial and expect to provide their final report to ministers later this month. Ministers will then determine next steps.

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information from the documents provided with this response are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

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 find more information at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Cath Anyan

Acting Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability Group