



14 April 2021

Scott

By email: fyi-request-14684-802e2d6e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0373

Dear Scott

Official Information Act request relating to minutes associated with the change of Alert Level on 14 February 2021

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 15 February 2021. You requested:

*“One: The Cabinet paper and associated minute related to the decision to move the Auckland Region to COVID-19 Alert Level 3 and the rest of the country to Alert Level 2 on 14 February 2021;
Two: A copy of Cabinet’s National Resurgence Response Plan for COVID-19; and
Three: A copy of the most recently produced Weekly Monitoring Report, prior to 14 February 2021.”*

On 12 March 2021, the time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days because it necessitated consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

I am releasing to you a copy of the most recent COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report produced by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), dated 22 September 2020. Some information in this document has been withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(ba)(i), as *the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.*

The Cabinet papers associated with the decision to change COVID-19 Alert Levels following the identification of three community cases of COVID-19 in South Auckland on 14 February 2021, and the subsequent review of those Alert Levels, are intended to be proactively released on DPMC’s webpage through the following link: dpmc.govt.nz/publications. Your request for this information is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested will soon be publicly available.

Regarding your request for a copy of Cabinet’s National Resurgence Response Plan for COVID-19, please note that this is a live document that is updated frequently in order to meet the ongoing challenges of COVID-19 through border entry measures, contact tracing, community testing, etc. Given the ever-changing nature of this plan, the information is therefore withheld under section 9(2)(c) of the Act, as *the withholding of the information is*

necessary to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health and safety of members of the public.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9, no public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email (info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

This response will be published on the DPMC'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



Cheryl Barnes

Deputy Chief Executive, COVID-19 Group