

17 September 2021

John Jacobson

By email: fyi-request-15419-385121ca@requests.fyi.org.nz  
Ref: H202104400 and H202106233

Tēnā koe Mr Jacobson

### **Response to your requests for official information**

Thank you for your requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 13 April 2021 (H202104400 refers) and 10 May 2021 (H202106233 refers) for information relating to COVID-19 vaccination passport. For ease of reference, I have decided to respond to both requests under this letter.

Please note that the table in Appendix A lists the documents identified within scope of your requests and specific grounds under which I have decided to withhold information. Where information is withheld from a document, the grounds are also noted in the document itself.

#### OIA H202106233:

*“...all internal communications relating to the processing of my request...”*

On 8 June 2021, the Ministry extended the due date for responding to this request as further consultation was required. Please refer to Documents 1 to 5 for information identified within scope of this request.

#### OIA H202104400:

On 8 June 2021, the Ministry advised you of its decision to reconsider the previous response, provided to you on 7 May 2021 where all information pertaining to your request of 13 April 2021 was withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Information in response to each part of this request is outlined below. Please note that some parts of this request were also transferred to the Ministry of Transport and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet pursuant to section 14 of the Act.

*“a) the dates and titles of all advice or memos generated within the Ministry of Health which are either solely about, or incorporate content relating to, the topic of how a person might provide proof or certification of either having been vaccinated against Covid-19, or otherwise having Covid-19 antibodies.*

*(b) copies of the advice or memos identified as within the scope of (a) above.”*

Two internal memos (attached as Document 6 and Document 7) that were written as updates to the Ministry's System Strategy and Policy Deputy Director-General have been identified within scope of this part of your request. Please note, the advice contained in these documents were not sent to any Ministers to inform decisions and were accurate at the time they were written. The Ministry is preparing information about COVID-19 vaccination certificates and this will be published on the website soon and will supersede the advice contained in these documents.

You can also expect a response from the Ministry of Transport to this part of your request in due course.

*“(c) copies of communications from the Ministry to each of the following about options for, or work to progress, people being able to provide proof of their Covid-19 vaccination or antibody status, sent between 1 August 2020 and 13 April 2021;  
(i) the Minister or Associate Ministers of Health, or officials in their offices;  
(ii) the Minister for Covid-19 Response, or officials in his office;”*

These parts of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist.

*“(c)(iii) officials in the Covid-19 Group in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet;”*

Two emails have been identified within scope of this part of your request and copies are enclosed as Documents 8 and 9.

*“(c)(iv) officials in the Department of Internal Affairs”*

One email has been identified within scope of this part of your request and is attached as Document 10.

*“(c)(v) officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade”*

Two emails have been identified within the scope of this part of your request and are enclosed as Documents 11 and 12.

*“(c)(vi) officials in the Ministry of Justice”*

This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

*“(d) any contract the Ministry holds with a software company which includes work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, and a the statement of work required from that company in relation to that work.”*

The Ministry does not hold any contracts on developing a smartphone application to record and display proof or vaccination certification. For this reason, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

*(e) the project plan (or other documentation giving an overview of the work) of any work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status.*

Three documents have been identified within the scope of this part of your request and are enclosed as Documents 13 to 15.

Please note you can also expect a response from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to this part of your request in due course.

*(f) the number of people working for, or contracted to, the Ministry of Health that are working on methods for people to provide proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, both in absolute numbers and Full-Time Equivalents.*

At the time of your request (13 April 2021), there were eight people working on this work programme with the full-time equivalent of 3.75.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Please accept our apologies for the delay in providing this information.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [xxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxxxxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxxxxxx.xx) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nākū noa, nā



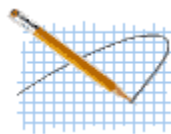
Maree Roberts  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**System Strategy and Policy**

## Appendix A: List of documents for release

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	16 April 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials	Released in full.
2	28 April 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.
3	4 May 2021		
4	4 May 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers and officers and employees of any public service agency.
5	5 May 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials	Released in full.
6	18 December 2020	Ministry memo to COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Steering Group	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.
7	29 March 2021	Ministry memo to the Deputy Director-General of System Strategy and Policy and the Deputy Chief Executive of COVID-19 Health System Response	Withheld in full under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers and officers and employees of any public service agency. and</li> <li>• 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice.</li> </ul>
8	7 – 8 April 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) officials Re: DPMC (urgent) report on vaccine passports for DPMC Chief Executive	Released with some information withheld under the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6(b)(i), as its release would prejudice information entrusted to the Government of New Zealand from another Government or agency; and</li> <li>• 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.</li> </ul>

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
9	8 – 9 April 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials and DPMC officials Re: Vaccine passports and certificates	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.
10	6 – 8 April 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials and Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) officials Re: DIA briefing for Minister Clark re vaccine certificates	Released with some information withheld under the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6(b)(i), as its release would prejudice information entrusted to the Government of New Zealand from another Government or agency; and</li> <li>• 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.</li> </ul>
11	2 March 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) officials Re: Lines on travel pass work	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.
12	7 – 13 April 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials and MFAT officials Re: Engagement on travel health pass	Released with some information withheld under the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6(b)(i), as its release would prejudice information entrusted to the Government of New Zealand from another Government or agency; and</li> <li>• 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.</li> </ul>
13	24 February 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials Re: Vaccine certification	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between employees of any public service agency.
14	13 March – 14 April 2021	Email correspondence between Ministry officials and software company Re: Vaccine Certs FW: Video of NZ COVID Tracer prototype using VCs	Released with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons;</li> <li>• 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source; and</li> </ul>

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9(2)(b)(ii), where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.</li> </ul>
15	26 March 2021	Draft Vaccine Credentials PowerPoint	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.



Sent by:  
Casey.Pickett@health.govt.nz

To: Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz  
cc: SSP.\*\*\*  
bcc:

16/04/2021 08:26 am

Subject: OIA - Proof of COVID-19 vaccination (H202104400)

Hi there,

My team (Public health policy)

Does not hold any information on this,

Thanks

Casey

**From:** Alisha Schmidt <Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Friday, 16 April 2021 8:00 am

**To:** SSP-Office of the DDG <SSP.OfficeoftheDDG@health.govt.nz>; COVID-19 Vaccine <covid-19vaccine@health.govt.nz>

**Cc:** Sophie Kaphahn <Sophie.Kaphahn@health.govt.nz>; Casey Pickett <Casey.Pickett@health.govt.nz>; Wendy Illingworth <Wendy.Illingworth@health.govt.nz>; Stephen Harris <Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz>; Laura Miller <laura.miller@health.govt.nz>

**Subject:** RE: OIA - Proof of COVID-19 vaccination ([H202104400](#))

Morning all

Just following up on this please, as Minister Hipkins' office has received a similar request and would like guidance on whether the Ministry holds any information so they know what to look for.

Many thanks

**Alisha Schmidt**

Senior Advisor | OIA Services | Office of the Director-General

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

E: [Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)



**From:** Eman Duff <[Eman.Duff@health.govt.nz](mailto:Eman.Duff@health.govt.nz)> **On Behalf Of** SSP-Office of the DDG  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 5:07 pm  
**To:** Alisha Schmidt <[Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)>; COVID-19 Vaccine <[covid-19vaccine@health.govt.nz](mailto:covid-19vaccine@health.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Sophie Kaphahn <[Sophie.Kaphahn@health.govt.nz](mailto:Sophie.Kaphahn@health.govt.nz)>; Casey Pickett <[Casey.Pickett@health.govt.nz](mailto:Casey.Pickett@health.govt.nz)>; Wendy Illingworth <[Wendy.Illingworth@health.govt.nz](mailto:Wendy.Illingworth@health.govt.nz)>; Stephen Harris <[Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz](mailto:Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz)>; Laura Miller <[laura.miller@health.govt.nz](mailto:laura.miller@health.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: OIA - Proof of COVID-19 vaccination (H202104400)

Hi all – I'm cc-ing you in as a first point of call, if I've missed anyone off this list, please either forward onto them, or let me know. If this email isn't for you, let me know as well!

I'm not sure what, if anything we might hold in this space; if you don't believe there are any relevant documents, just let me know, otherwise please send any relevant material to Alisha for processing.

Many thanks

**Nga mihi**

**Eman Duff**

Senior Advisor

Office of the Deputy Director-General  
System Strategy and Policy  
Ministry of Health

mailto: [eman.duff@health.govt.nz](mailto:eman.duff@health.govt.nz)




**From:** Alisha Schmidt <[Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 5:02 pm  
**To:** SSP-Office of the DDG <[SSP.OfficeoftheDDG@health.govt.nz](mailto:SSP.OfficeoftheDDG@health.govt.nz)>; COVID-19 Vaccine <[covid-19vaccine@health.govt.nz](mailto:covid-19vaccine@health.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** OIA - Proof of COVID-19 vaccination (H202104400)

Hi teams



We've received the below OIA request for all information regarding providing proof of being vaccinated, can you please advise if any of the teams within your areas would hold any information? Would this be similar to the COVID-19 passports? – I'm aware that the Ministry of Transport is the lead on that.

I note they are requesting a lot of communications, if we do hold any, depending on how much we do hold, we can refine or refuse this part of the request.

Link	Ref Number	Writer	Subject	Assigned To	Dt Due	Status	DB Number
		John Jacobson	<p>OIA: Please provide the following information.</p> <p>(a) the dates and titles of all advice or memos generated within the Ministry of Health which are either solely about, or incorporate content relating to, the topic of how a person might provide proof or certification of either having been vaccinated against Covid-19, or otherwise having Covid-19 antibodies.</p> <p>(b) copies of the advice or memos identified as within the scope of (a) above.</p> <p>(c) copies of communications from the Ministry to each of the following about options for, or work to progress, people being able to provide proof of their Covid-19 vaccination or antibody status, sent between 1 August 2020 and 13 April 2021;</p> <p>(i) the Minister or Associate Ministers of Health, or officials in their offices;</p> <p>(ii) the Minister for Covid-19 Response, or officials in his office;</p>	Alisha Schmidt	12/05/2021	With Analyst	H202104400

(iii) officials in the Covid-19 Group in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

(iv) officials in the Department of Internal Affairs

(v) officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (vi) officials in the Ministry of Justice.

(d) any contract the Ministry holds with a software company which includes work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, and a the statement of work required from that company in relation to that work.

(e) the project plan (or other documentation giving an overview of the work) of any work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status.

(f) the number of people working for, or contracted to, the Ministry of Health that are working on methods for people to provide proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, both in absolute numbers and Full-Time Equivalents.

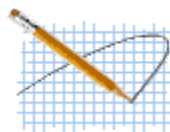
Thanks in advance

**Alisha Schmidt**

Senior Advisor | OIA Services | Office of the Director-General

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

E: [Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)



Sent by:  
xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.  
nz

To: Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz  
cc:  
bcc:

28/04/2021 11:01 am

Subject: OIA - Providing proof of being vaccinated against COVID-19 (H202104440)

Hi Alisha

Thanks for meeting just now.

The Ministry of Transport leads for the multi-agency Travel Health Ppass work programme (a.k.a vaccine certificates for travel) are: Bev Driscoll [b.driscoll@transport.govt.nz](mailto:b.driscoll@transport.govt.nz) and Alec Morrison [a.morrison@transport.govt.nz](mailto:a.morrison@transport.govt.nz)

Attached is:

- A memo from Stephen Harris to Sue Gordon and Maree Roberts that outlines some of the work underway on this issue (may be in scope)
- Also, I shared two Ministry of Transport briefings with Ashley (for his information). These are attached, including the cover note and audit trail. This may be in scope ? Here is the link:

[COVID-19 Health System Response Filing - sharing MoT Travel Health Pass briefing and Ministers talking points to DG and DDG](#)

Ngā mihi

Maria

**Maria Cotter | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy**

System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a) [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa** - We must work together for the wellbeing of all




**From:** Maria Cotter

**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 10:31 am  
**To:** Alisha Schmidt <Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** SSP-Office of the DDG <SSP.OfficeoftheDDG@health.govt.nz>; Caitlin Finnegan-Ramanui <Caitlin.Finnegan-Ramanui@health.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: OIA - Providing proof of being vaccinated against COVID-19 (H202104440)

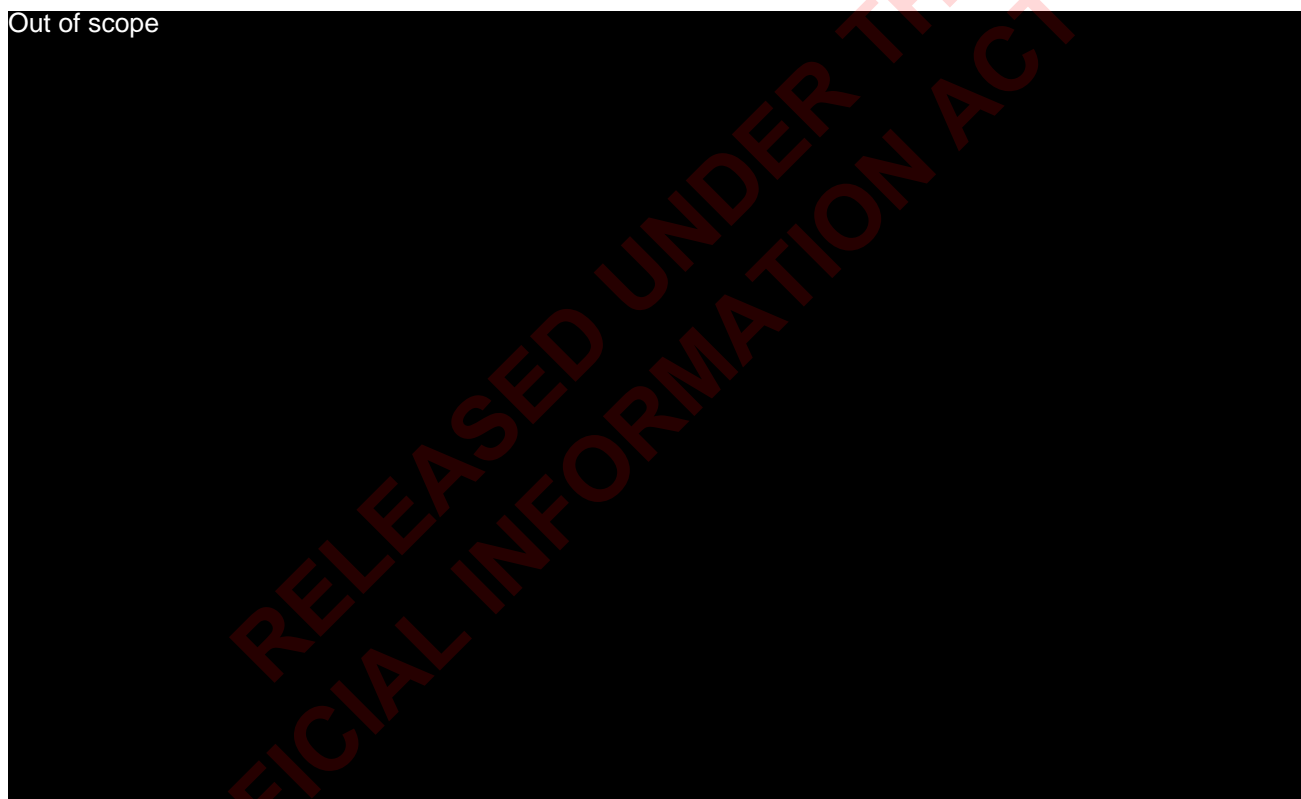
Hi Alisha – yes I am your person! (can you update your SME’s list as I understand a lot of OIAs on this issue are struggling to find a home?)

Lets meet to discuss the scope please.

Out of scope



Out of scope



**Maria Cotter** | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy  
System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a) [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa** - We must work together for the wellbeing of all



**From:** Alisha Schmidt <[Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 10:16 am  
**To:** Maria Cotter <[Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** SSP-Office of the DDG <[SSP.OfficeoftheDDG@health.govt.nz](mailto:SSP.OfficeoftheDDG@health.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: OIA - Providing proof of being vaccinated against COVID-19 (H202104440)

Morning Maria

Gaynor from Data and Digital advised that you may be able to assist with the below OIA request, can you please advise? I have been unable to find the right team/directorate to assist with this request?

Link	Ref Number	Writer	Subject	Assigned To	Dt Due	Status	DB Number
■		John Jacobson	<p>OIA: Please provide the following information.</p> <p>(a) the dates and titles of all advice or memos generated within the Ministry of Health which are either solely about, or incorporate content relating to, the topic of how a person might provide proof or certification of either having been vaccinated against Covid-19, or otherwise having Covid-19 antibodies.</p> <p>(b) copies of the advice or memos identified as within the scope of (a) above. (c) copies of communications from the Ministry to each of the following about options for, or work to progress, people being able to provide proof of their Covid-19 vaccination or antibody status, sent between 1 August 2020 and 13 April 2021; (</p> <p>i) the Minister or Associate Ministers of Health, or officials in their offices;</p> <p>(ii) the Minister for Covid-19 Response, or officials in his office;</p>	Alisha Schmidt	12/05/2021	With Analyst	H2021044000

(iii) officials in the Covid-19 Group in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

(iv) officials in the Department of Internal Affairs

(v) officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

(vi) officials in the Ministry of Justice.

(d) any contract the Ministry holds with a software company which includes work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, and a the statement of work required from that company in relation to that work.

(e) the project plan (or other documentation giving an overview of the work) of any work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status.

(f) the number of people working for, or contracted to, the Ministry of Health that are working on methods for people to provide proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, both in absolute numbers and Full-Time Equivalents.

Out of scope

Out of scope



Many thanks

**Alisha Schmidt**

Senior Advisor | OIA Services | Office of the Director-General

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

E: [Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)



**From:** Gaynor Bradfield <[Gaynor.Bradfield@health.govt.nz](mailto:Gaynor.Bradfield@health.govt.nz)> **On Behalf Of** ODDG Data and Digital Requests

**Sent:** Monday, 19 April 2021 6:02 pm

**To:** Alisha Schmidt <[Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** ODDG Data and Digital Requests <[ODDG.DataDigitalRequests@health.govt.nz](mailto:ODDG.DataDigitalRequests@health.govt.nz)>; Patrick Hindmarsh <[Patrick.Hindmarsh@health.govt.nz](mailto:Patrick.Hindmarsh@health.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** FW: OIA - Providing proof of being vaccinated against COVID-19 (H202104440)

Hi Alisha

I can advise that there is no contract or statement of work in place that comes within the scope of (d), nor is there a project plan that comes within the scope of (e).

However, there is a lot of investigative work underway and we should say something about that, we don't want it to look as if the Ministry isn't doing anything. The reply to the other parts of the OIA might make that clear. If not, we will be able to provide some words.

As I advised, we think SS&P is best placed to lead the rest of this OIA, Maria Cotter from SS&P has been working with D&D.

Cheers

Gaynor

Gaynor Bradfield

Manager, Office of the Deputy Director General | **Data and Digital** | DDI: 04 816 2494 | MOB: s 9(2)(a)



**From:** Gaynor Bradfield <[Gaynor.Bradfield@health.govt.nz](mailto:Gaynor.Bradfield@health.govt.nz)> **On Behalf Of** ODDG Data and Digital Requests  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 April 2021 5:42 pm  
**To:** Alisha Schmidt <[Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: OIA - Providing proof of being vaccinated against COVID-19 (H202104440)

Hi Alisha

I'm not sure if anyone from D&D got back to you on this. Apologies if we didn't, and this is hopefully consistent if we did ☐.

We think this is something that would be led by Policy.

We will get back to you on d and e as soon as we can next week.

Cheers

Gaynor

Gaynor Bradfield

Manager, Office of the Deputy Director General | **Data and Digital** | DDI: 04 816 2494 | MOB: s 9(2)(a)





**From:** Alisha Schmidt <[Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 4:57 pm

**To:** ODDG Data and Digital Requests <[ODDG.DataDigitalRequests@health.govt.nz](mailto:ODDG.DataDigitalRequests@health.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** OIA - Providing proof of being vaccinated against COVID-19 (H202104440)

Hi team

Would your directorate hold any information pertaining to any part of below request? In particular parts (d) and (e)?

Link	Ref Number	Writer	Subject	Assigned To	Dt Due	Status	DB Number
■		John Jacobson	<p>OIA: Please provide the following information.</p> <p>(a) the dates and titles of all advice or memos generated within the Ministry of Health which are either solely about, or incorporate content relating to, the topic of how a person might provide proof or certification of either having been vaccinated against Covid-19, or otherwise having Covid-19 antibodies.</p> <p>(b) copies of the advice or memos identified as within the scope of (a) above.</p> <p>(c) copies of communications from the Ministry to each of the following about options for, or work to progress, people being able to provide proof of their Covid-19 vaccination or antibody status, sent between 1 August 2020 and 13 April 2021;</p> <p>(i) the Minister or Associate Ministers of Health, or officials in their offices;</p>	Alisha Schmidt	12/05/2021	With Analyst	H202104400

(ii) the Minister for Covid-19 Response, or officials in his office;

(iii) officials in the Covid-19 Group in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

(iv) officials in the Department of Internal Affairs

(v) officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (vi) officials in the Ministry of Justice.

(d) any contract the Ministry holds with a software company which includes work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, and a the statement of work required from that company in relation to that work.

(e) the project plan (or other documentation giving an overview of the work) of any work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status.

(f) the number of people working for, or contracted to, the Ministry of Health that are working on methods for people to provide proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, both in absolute numbers and Full-Time Equivalents.

Thanks very much

**Alisha Schmidt**

Senior Advisor | OIA Services | Office of the Director-General

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

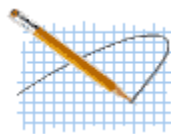
E: [Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)



MOH memo to DDG on VACCINE certificates.docx - put-in-cabinet-data.json

Attachment provided as Document 7

RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



Sent by:  
xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.  
nz

To: Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz  
cc:  
bcc:

04/05/2021 12:04 pm

Subject: John Jacobson OIAs re vaccine passports

Hi Alisha – We have decided to take a slightly different tack on this. See what you think

**Maria Cotter | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy**

System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a) [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tâtou mô te oranga o te katoa** - We must work together for the wellbeing of all



**From:** Maria Cotter

**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 3:31 pm

**To:** Alisha Schmidt <Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz>; Laura Miller  
<laura.miller@health.govt.nz>; Stephen Harris <Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz>

**Subject:** FW: Out of scope & John Jacobson OIAs re vaccine passports

Hi Alisha – this looks good.

Laura, Jon and Stephen - are you comfortable with the refusal?

Maria

**Maria Cotter | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy**

System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a) [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tâtou mô te oranga o te katoa** - We must work together for the wellbeing of all



**From:** Alisha Schmidt <[Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 11:37 am

**To:** Maria Cotter <[Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Out of scope & John Jacobson OIAs

Hi Maria

Please find attached drafted refusal for the Ministry's response for your review. I also drafted a cover sheet for background info for Maree.

Many thanks

**Alisha Schmidt**

Senior Advisor | OIA Services | Office of the Director-General

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

E: [Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)



**From:** Maria Cotter <[Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 11:03 am  
**To:** Alisha Schmidt <[Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Caitlin Finnegan-Ramanui <[Caitlin.Finnegan-Ramanui@health.govt.nz](mailto:Caitlin.Finnegan-Ramanui@health.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED] & John Jacobson OIAs

Perfect – thanks Alisha and Caitlin

**Maria Cotter | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy**  
System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | 021 0244 4591 [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa** - We must work together for the wellbeing of all



**From:** Alisha Schmidt <[Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 11:00 am  
**To:** Maria Cotter <[Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Caitlin Finnegan-Ramanui <[Caitlin.Finnegan-Ramanui@health.govt.nz](mailto:Caitlin.Finnegan-Ramanui@health.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] & John Jacobson OIAs

Hi again Maria

Thanks for meeting with us earlier. Just wanted to confirm our approach to these requests following a discussion with one of our Principal Advisors.

Out of scope

John Jacobson:

Ministry request – Withhold all information under section 9(2)(f)(iv), active consideration

Out of scope

We will draft the responses and send them back to you for a final review before starting final Ministry sign out. Will also ensure these are signed out by Maree.

Many thanks

**Alisha Schmidt**

Senior Advisor | OIA Services | Office of the Director-General

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

E: [Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)



Jacobson OIA letter MC comments.docx  
put-in-cabinet-data.json

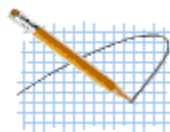


- Jacobson OIA MC comments(1).docx -



Final versions have been provided in Document 4

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Sent by:  
Antony.Paltridge@health.govt.nz

To: Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz  
cc: xxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx, xxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx  
bcc:

04/05/2021 01:31 pm

Subject: Peer review - Vaccine passports (H202104400)

Hi Alisha

Looks good, just tightened it up a little.

An OMB complaint is a possibility.

Cheers

Antony

**From:** Alisha Schmidt <Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 12:37 pm

**To:** Antony Paltridge <Antony.Paltridge@health.govt.nz>

**Subject:** Peer review - Vaccine passports (H202104400)

Hi Antony

Another one for review please, the team wanted to include some further context in the response letter. Not sure if we should be going into this level of detail since no decisions have been made by Ministers, could you please confirm?

Li nk	Ref Nu mber	Wri ter	Subject	Assi gned To	Dt Due	Stat us	DB Num ber
		John Jacobson	OIA: Please provide the following information. (a) the dates and titles of all advice or memos generated within the Ministry of Health which are either solely about, or incorporate content relating to, the topic of how a person might provide proof or certification of either having	Alisha Schmidt	12/05/2021	With Analyst	H202104400

certification of either having been vaccinated against Covid-19, or otherwise having Covid-19 antibodies. (b) copies of the advice or memos identified as within the scope of (a) above. (c) copies of communications from the Ministry to each of the following about options for, or work to progress, people being able to provide proof of their Covid-19 vaccination or antibody status, sent between 1 August 2020 and 13 April 2021; (i) the Minister or Associate Ministers of Health, or officials in their offices; (ii) the Minister for Covid-19 Response, or officials in his office; (iii) officials in the Covid-19 Group in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (iv) officials in the Department of Internal Affairs (v) officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (vi) officials in the Ministry of Justice. (d) any contract the Ministry holds with a software company which includes work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, and a the statement of work required from that company in relation to that work. (e) the project plan (or other documentation giving an overview of the work) of any work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status. (f) the number of people working for, or contracted to, the Ministry of Health that are working on methods for people to provide proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, both in absolute numbers and Full-Time Equivalents.

Thank you

**Alisha Schmidt**

Senior Advisor | OIA Services | Office of the Director-General


Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health


E: [Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)



E: [Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)



H202104400\_ap peer review.docx  -

H202104400 Info Sheet\_ap peer review.docx  -

put-in-cabinet-data.json

Attachment withheld under s9(2)(g)(i)

Final version has been provided in the following pages

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7 May 2021

John Jacobson

By email: [fyi-request-15162-1322f185@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15162-1322f185@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202104400

Dear John Jacobson

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 13 April 2021 for:

- “(a) the dates and titles of all advice or memos generated within the Ministry of Health which are either solely about, or incorporate content relating to, the topic of how a person might provide proof or certification of either having been vaccinated against Covid-19, or otherwise having Covid-19 antibodies.*
- (b) copies of the advice or memos identified as within the scope of (a) above.*
- (c) copies of communications from the Ministry to each of the following about options for, or work to progress, people being able to provide proof of their Covid-19 vaccination or antibody status, sent between 1 August 2020 and 13 April 2021;*
- (i) the Minister or Associate Ministers of Health, or officials in their offices;*
- (ii) the Minister for Covid-19 Response, or officials in his office;*
- (iii) officials in the Covid-19 Group in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet*
- (iv) officials in the Department of Internal Affairs*
- (v) officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade*
- (vi) officials in the Ministry of Justice.*
- (d) any contract the Ministry holds with a software company which includes work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, and a the statement of work required from that company in relation to that work.*
- (e) the project plan (or other documentation giving an overview of the work) of any work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status.*
- (f) the number of people working for, or contracted to, the Ministry of Health that are working on methods for people to provide proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, both in absolute numbers and Full-Time Equivalents.”*

With COVID-19 vaccinations being rolled out worldwide, vaccination certificates that both meet rigorous criteria and are operationally sound have been proposed to ease border restrictions without compromising public health. To that end, the Ministry is working jointly with agencies across Government to develop digital vaccine certificates to facilitate international travel.

As this work is still under active consideration by Ministers, information pertaining to your request is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

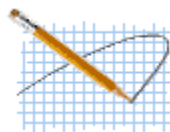
Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Maree Roberts  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**System Strategy and Policy**

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Sent by:  
x@x  
vt.nz

To: Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz  
cc:  
bcc:

05/05/2021 08:44 am

Subject: Booking in time for Maree's sign off (H202104400)

Hi Alisha

Maree has back to back meetings over the next couple of days. Since this is a small one, I'm going to try and put it in with a couple of other sign offs she has.

I'll have it back to you before the end of the week.

Kai pai tō rā

Morag

**From:** Alisha Schmidt <Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz>


**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 3:32 pm

**To:** Morag Hatcher <Morag.Hatcher@health.govt.nz>

**Subject:** Booking in time for Maree's sign off (H202104400)

Hi Morag

Can I please book in a time in Maree's diary for the below OIA request to be reviewed and signed? Its currently with Emily Richards for review and is due 12 May.

Li nk	Ref Nu mber	Wri ter	Subject	Assi gned To	Dt Due	Stat us	DB Num ber
		John Jacobson	OIA: Please provide the following information. (a) the dates and titles of all advice or memos generated within the Ministry of Health which are either solely about, or incorporate content relating to, the topic of how a person might provide proof or certification of either having	Alisha Schmidt	12/05/2021	With Analyst	H202104400

certification of either having been vaccinated against Covid-19, or otherwise having Covid-19 antibodies. (b) copies of the advice or memos identified as within the scope of (a) above. (c) copies of communications from the Ministry to each of the following about options for, or work to progress, people being able to provide proof of their Covid-19 vaccination or antibody status, sent between 1 August 2020 and 13 April 2021; (i) the Minister or Associate Ministers of Health, or officials in their offices; (ii) the Minister for Covid-19 Response, or officials in his office; (iii) officials in the Covid-19 Group in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (iv) officials in the Department of Internal Affairs (v) officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (vi) officials in the Ministry of Justice. (d) any contract the Ministry holds with a software company which includes work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, and a the statement of work required from that company in relation to that work. (e) the project plan (or other documentation giving an overview of the work) of any work to develop a smartphone app to record and display someone's proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status. (f) the number of people working for, or contracted to, the Ministry of Health that are working on methods for people to provide proof or certification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, both in absolute numbers and Full-Time Equivalents.

Thank you

**Alisha Schmidt**

Senior Advisor | OIA Services | Office of the Director-General

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

E: [Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alisha.Schmidt@health.govt.nz)

# Memo

## COVID-19 vaccine and immunity records – interfaces with public health requirements and international travel

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**Date:** 18 December 2020

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**To:** COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Strategy Steering Group

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**From:** Allison Bennett, Manager System Enablers, System Strategy and Policy

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**For your:** Information

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### Purpose of report

1. This memo provides information on “vaccine passports” and other records that are proposed in some countries to exempt holders from certain public health requirements, and on next steps in keeping New Zealanders safe and well informed should they need to travel in future.

### Background and context

2. COVID-19 vaccines are now being delivered to people at risk in some countries, with others preparing for vaccine use during 2021. Questions are being raised about exemption from such requirements as isolation, quarantine, social distancing or pre-flight testing for those who have completed vaccination.
3. Similar questions have been raised previously about “immunity passports” or “risk-free certificates” for people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies. The World Health Organization’s (WHO) advice<sup>1</sup> remains that the use of such certificates may increase the risks of COVID-19 transmission. This is because there is not enough evidence about the effectiveness of antibody-mediated immunity in preventing a second infection or transmission, yet people with certificates may assume they are protected and ignore public health advice.

### What is known about effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines?

4. We know little about how effective vaccines will be at this stage. There appear to be promising immune system responses (such as antibody creation and increase on reexposure) to a number of vaccines undergoing clinical trials. Whether, to what extent and over what time period these responses will protect against COVID-19 is not yet known.
5. Phase 3 clinical trial results (the earliest of these expected in the coming month) will provide limited information about protection from COVID-19 disease and very limited if any information on transmission of COVID-19 from people vaccinated to other contacts, and on duration of protection. It will be at least some months, probably longer, before enough is known about vaccine effectiveness to be confident in the types and extent of protection they offer.
6. It remains possible, for example, that vaccines may decrease symptoms and severe disease but not decrease transmission of the virus. That would be a significant benefit for countries with widespread community transmission, high fatalities and strained health systems. For New Zealand, on the other hand, it would increase COVID-19 risks – if fewer people were



**DRAFT – NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY, NOT MINISTRY ADVICE**

symptomatic, our testing and tracing activities would be less likely to detect incursions, increasing the risk of outbreaks.

**Next steps**

7. Medsafe will continue to receive clinical information from vaccine suppliers on a rolling basis, as clinical trials proceed. Trial reports are published by WHO<sup>ii</sup> progressively and/or as they are concluded. The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is scanning this information for relevance to vaccine and immunisation planning.
8. A group of modellers from Te Pūnaha Matatini, the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR), PHARMAC and the Ministry are modelling vaccine scenarios. This work will inform use of our sequencing framework and identify the likely impacts of a range of situations such as the risk of increased COVID-19 transmission if symptoms are masked by vaccine and transmission still possible. Caroline McElroy and Trish Priest are providing input to this work.

**How will vaccination in other countries interface with New Zealand?**

9. Many other countries are starting to use COVID-19 vaccines to reduce the impacts of widespread disease. New Zealand is in the enviable position of being able to wait until more is known about vaccine effectiveness and safety before using vaccines.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

14. Medsafe approval will be considered first for those vaccines that are or can be purchased by the Government. Other safe and effective vaccines may not be available to New Zealand. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

**Next steps**

15. A watching brief will be kept on international developments as more becomes known about vaccine effectiveness, vaccine effects on COVID tests and serology, and the differences across vaccines, whether they are approved in New Zealand or elsewhere.

**DRAFT – NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY, NOT MINISTRY ADVICE**

**How will vaccination in New Zealand interface with international travel?**

16. It is likely that, in future, a number of countries, airlines and businesses will exempt travellers from certain requirements if they have proof of vaccination. Israel has already announced exemptions within its borders for citizens who are vaccinated. Qantas’ chief executive officer has said proof of vaccination will be required in future before people can board international flights.
17. How such schemes will be designed, with what evidence base and/or validation requirements, is not yet known. New Zealanders who travel will wish to be protected from COVID-19 as far as possible – they will also wish to take up exemption or preference opportunities that may be offered. Work with global organisations and international partners will be required to standardise such schemes including, for example, inclusion with electronic passports. It will be important that such schemes are secure and founded on evidence.
18. Vaccination in New Zealand will be evidence-based, with Medsafe approving vaccines that have met local and international requirements for safety and efficacy. Harmonisation and close communication with trusted peer regulators internationally is in place and will be a foundation for countries recognising vaccination across borders.

**Next steps**

19. Tools for people retain or access their own record of vaccine doses with information such as dates and batch numbers are being developed. These tools will link with the National Immunisation Solution interfaces (such as with National Health Index, personal health records, practitioner records, COVID Tracer app). Validation requirements are integral to this work as it is a key enabler of the safety and adverse event monitoring required for new vaccines.
20. Certification, if required in addition to personal records, will be worked on alongside global and international partners. This will become a higher priority once evidence is available on vaccine effectiveness and larger numbers of New Zealanders are vaccinated.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that you:

1.	Note	The information provided	Yes/No
3.	Discuss	Next steps	Yes/No

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Name]  
**[Title]**

Date:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Name]  
**[Title]**

Date:

<sup>i</sup> World Health Organization (2020). “Immunity passports” in the context of COVID-19. Scientific brief 24 April 2020

<sup>ii</sup> World Health Organization (updated frequently). COVID-19 – Landscape of novel coronavirus candidate vaccine development worldwide. 16 December 2020

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**From:** Maria Cotter  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:07 pm  
**To:** Sija Robertson-Stone [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Laura Miller; Stephen Harris; Jon Herries; B Driscoll-Ext; Alec Morrison; rachel.spencer; Kate Rose; Andrew Barrowclough  
**Subject:** RE: DPMC (urgent) report on Vaccine Passports for DPMC Chief Exec  
**Attachments:** ar86\_2020-21 COVID-19 vaccines and the Border - R.pdf; Breifing - Introduction to the Travel Health Pass Work Programme.pdf

**Importance:** High Both attachments are DPMC and Ministry of Transport documents that will be released under their responses

Morena Sija

I see your initial email went to several people at the Ministry of Transport, so assume you are aware that they have recently provided a briefing to Minister Hipkins (attached) which provided a good overview of the work underway around health travel passes. They are also preparing a more substantial briefing, that includes reference to the IATA and WHO initiatives and will include a table about the industry and country developments. I have cc'd **Alec Morrison and Bev Driscoll** from MoT who are leading this paper.

s 6(b)(i)

s 6(b)(i)

I see my colleague **Jon Herries**, Group Manager, Digital and Data, here at the Ministry has offered to review your paper also.

Below is some information that may be useful for your briefing – some of which is drawn from the s 6(b)(i).

1. Globally considerable activity is underway to develop a COVID-19 vaccine certificate, both at government and intergovernmental levels and in the private sector. Vaccine certificates are being seen as a tool to provide greater confidence for the safer reopening of borders and resumption of international travel.
2. At the NZ government agency level, the Ministry of Transport has convened a Multi-Agency Travel Pass forum to coordinate cross government work towards a solution for New Zealand. The Travel Health Pass Programme focuses on the role of traveller health certificates in facilitating travel in and out of New Zealand. As vaccine certificates are principally a health issue, the Ministry of Health will take a joint role with the Ministry of Transport in leading this work programme.
3. This forum sits under the COVID-19 Border Executive Board. There are different streams of work led by different agencies. It is a system comprising:
  - digital identity linked vaccination certificates
  - diplomatic settings about who can travel and enter New Zealand
  - travel certificates and transaction at the border
  - the interface between domestic and international settings.
4. The Ministry of Health is actively involved in building the information technology platforms to enable identity linked COVID-19 digital vaccination certification for New Zealanders. It is important that work continues at pace as it lays the groundwork to enable a workable solution that can be operationalised when the time is right.

There are also key policy and operational questions that need to be resolved along this process. Key among them:

- how do we ensure New Zealand's certificate has interoperability with a global certification system?
  - what is the best platform for the certificate?
  - under what circumstances would we use vaccine certificates to ease border and domestic control measures to international travellers?
5. Progressing a clear sequenced work programme that captures the end to end process for travel to and from New Zealand and that has health and information privacy considerations at the forefront is imperative.
  6. This work is mediated by the timing and extent of the relaxation of our borders (and the public health measures placed upon inbound travellers such as managed isolation and testing) which is informed by roll-out of vaccines domestically and internationally, the science about vaccine efficacy and the behaviour of the SARS CoV-2 virus.
  7. The Multi-Agency Travel Pass Programme also maintains a watching brief over the various work streams underway internationally to ensure interdependencies, issues, and risks are identified and managed
  8. There are a number of significant policy issues to work through to firm up a NZ All of Government position on COVID-19 vaccine certificates, such as:

Under what circumstances would we use vaccine certificates to ease border and domestic control measures (testing and MIQ) to international travellers?

What credentials will NZ require of international travellers?

How will NZ differentiate varying certifying authorities (e.g. WHO, EU, countries) and among different vaccinations for incoming travellers?

How do we deal with people who can't be vaccinated? (incoming and outgoing)

What information is displayed on the credential itself (privacy vs security)

Will Verifiable Credentials (VC) have other uses beyond international travel?

How do we generate those QR codes in the vaccination process (that bind an event to the person)?

QR codes that represent a VC are very dense – how do we manage to minimise this?

The User Experience is critical – how do we make it simple to recognise and use?

Does the QR code invalidate itself after single use?

How do we onboard NZers to this – are they interested in seeing their vaccination history?

What happens when someone arrives without a recognised vaccine certificate?

How useful are the WHO standards going to be (when should we start)?

What are the Identification Management Standards, how do they apply to the creation of certificates?

Can we sweep up identity with rollout of the second vaccine?

Can we create verifiable credentials against other countries passports?

How long might we need/require vaccine certificates?

9. Additional to the fundamental questions around vaccine efficacy and population coverage are also questions around equity, information privacy, ethics and interoperability.

*What are vaccine certificates?*

10. Vaccine certificates are digital or physical documents that establish proof of vaccination (date, vaccine, place of vaccination etc), and can be linked to the identity of the holder. Digital vaccine certificates are proposed as a

tool to give confidence in the easing of border restrictions and allow international travel without compromising personal or public health.

11. At the moment, people who are vaccinated in New Zealand as part of the COVID-19 immunisation programme receive a paper vaccination booklet linked to their NHI.
12. Digital vaccine certificates are an extension of a known technology, Verifiable Credentials. These are able to be printed and can be used to prove a certificate is valid. They conventionally take the form of an electronic file or document and can be summarised with a QR code, this is used to verify the certificates authenticity. Evidence that the person owns the certificate comes from printing some of the identifying information of the person on the certificate, such as a passport number or NHI number.
13. The use of Verifiable Credentials is seen by many in the global technology industry as a mechanism to increase the security of proof of identity, and to therefore facilitate reductions in fraud and enable various new business models. This also forms the basis of the Department of Internal Affairs' work programme on Digital Identity, where a number of these verifiable credentials from various sources comprise elements of a Digital Identity. From a technical perspective, the ability for an agency to create and maintain large numbers of these credentials would allow the creation of significant value for the economy, with the understanding that in order for this to happen, the process for creating them needs to support the trust they engender.
14. The [WHO](#) and forums of experts (such as the [UK Royal Society](#)) has urged caution about introducing proof of COVID-19 vaccination for international travellers until more is known about the efficacy of vaccines and until vaccines become more available. The WHO has also raised concerns about how those who cannot be vaccinated would participate, and warns that vaccine passports would isolate poorer countries.
15. The WHO International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic will review its position on vaccine certificates for international travel on 14 April 2021. In the meantime, it is leading the development of agreed standards and specifications for vaccine certificates.
16. There is precedent for a WHO-led international vaccine certificate system. In the past vaccine certificates for cholera and smallpox have been required for international travel, and today some countries still require proof of yellow fever vaccination.
17. Under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), travellers can be required by the destination country to demonstrate proof of yellow fever vaccination using a physical document displaying a stamp and the signature of an authorised vaccinator. Yellow fever is the only disease currently mentioned in IHR 2005 for which countries can require proof of vaccination for international travellers. The IHR specifies:
  - vaccines approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO)
  - vaccines "of suitable quality" – with evidence on efficacy in reducing transmission
  - vaccines universally available
  - proof of vaccination recorded in the International Certificate for Vaccination or Prophylaxis (Yellow Card).

*WHO guidance and standards on vaccine certificates*

18. While the WHO is currently recommending against the use of vaccine passports, it has convened an independent expert working group to establish standards for digital vaccination certificates used in member states. The WHO emphasises it is critical to reiterate that the smart vaccination certificate (SVC) is not intended to serve as an 'immunity passport'.
19. There are three New Zealanders participating on this expert group, Alastair Kenworthy (Chief Standards Advisor, Data and Digital from the Ministry) and two others from industry. This working group aims to establish recommended standards for security, authentication, privacy and data exchange for vaccine certificates and provide best practice guidance for use.

20. WHO released on 19 March the first draft of the smart vaccination certificate specification for public feedback. We can provide constructive feedback on the first draft and at the same time do the groundwork for an eventual solution that conforms to the specification, which is already very detailed, albeit with some open questions. At this stage we are confident and comfortable with the direction with the draft specification, which presents no challenges for New Zealand. By adhering to the specification, New Zealand can be sure to have mutual recognition of vaccination certificates with every other country that does the same.
21. The WHO will finalise this guidance by the end of June 2021 and will produce six-monthly revisions thereafter. This guidance and WHO's leadership will be key to establishing international trust agreements for the use of vaccine certificates.

Here are some links to the WHO work on guidance for member states on developing a COVID-19 Smart Vaccine Certificate.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-public-comments-interim-guidance-for-developing-a-smart-vaccination-certificate-release-candidate-1>

[https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/interim-guidance-svc\\_20210319\\_final.pdf?sfvrsn=b95db77d\\_11&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/interim-guidance-svc_20210319_final.pdf?sfvrsn=b95db77d_11&download=true)

Below is a table that we have put together regarding global developments – but you may also want to liaise with Ministry of Transport for the table they are preparing for the briefing for Minister Hipkins. This is a fast changing space so this may not be comprehensive. For example, see this [week's announcement from the UK PM](#) that Britons could be required to show either a proof of immunity to COVID-19, vaccination or a negative test result in order to attend mass gatherings.

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## Global developments

Organisation	Initiative	Standards	Consumer	Health Records
WHO	Smart Vaccination Certificate Consortium	X		
WHO/Estonia	Pilot of Smart Vaccination Certificate		X	X
Five Eyes	Human Biosecurity Group (HBG5)	X		
OECD/Spain	COVID-free mobility initiative			
Commons Project	CommonPass	X	X	X
IATA	IATA Travel Pass		X	
International Chamber of Commerce	AOKpass			
Linux Foundation	COVID-19 Credentials Initiative (CCI)	X		
GoPassport Group	GoPassport			
IBM	IBM Digital Health Pass		X	X
CANImmunize (a Canadian company)	CANImmunize			
Alipay and WeChat (Chinese entities)	Chinese QR code traffic-light coding system for health status administered through apps			
Healthvana (in partnership with LA County)	Healthvana			
Vaccine Credential Initiative (VCI)	Credentialising health records	X		
Singapore			X	X
Denmark			X	X
ICAO		X	X	X
EU		X		

Do call me if you need to talk any of this through. And if timeframes allow, it would be good to see a draft before it goes up.

Ngā mihi

Maria

**Maria Cotter | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy**

System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a) [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa - We must work together for the wellbeing of all**



**From:** Stephen Harris <Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:02 am

**To:** Sija Robertson-Stone [DPMC] <Sija.Robertson-Stone@dpmc.govt.nz>; Maria Cotter <Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz>

**Cc:** Griere Cox [DPMC] <Griere.Cox@dpmc.govt.nz>; Laura Miller <laura.miller@health.govt.nz>; Maree Roberts

<Maree.Roberts@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Barrowclough <Andrew.Barrowclough@dpmc.govt.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Passports

Kia ora Sija,

Thanks for getting in touch.

Yes, significant work is underway on vaccine certification.

To spare you the labyrinth we have navigated recently I suggest we have a quick conversation.

I'm free again at noon, so I'll leave Maria Cotter to make contact in the meantime.

Nga mihi

Stephen

**Stephen Harris** | Group Manager Covid-19 Policy | Covid-19 Policy Response | System, Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a) | [Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz](mailto:Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz)

---

**From:** Sija Robertson-Stone [DPMC] <[Sija.Robertson-xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Sija.Robertson-xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 10:48 am

**To:** Stephen Harris <[Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz](mailto:Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Griere Cox [DPMC] <[Griere.Cox@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Griere.Cox@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Andrew Barrowclough <[Andrew.Barrowclough@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Barrowclough@dpmc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Vaccine Passports

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora,

I am hoping you might be able to help.

We are seeking existing reporting related to vaccine passports.

We appreciate a lot of work has already been done in this space, and we are looking to build on it in a brief report to our Chief Executive, taking an across system view, focussing on international examples.

We are hoping to cover:

- countries using them
- the WHO / IATA context
- management and implementation of the passports (and verification)
- operational and strategic things to consider moving forward.

We have sent the email below to a few people already, who suggested we link you in based on the work you are doing.

Please link in anyone else you think may be able to contribute content.

We are hoping to collate the content by this afternoon (Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>).

I am happy to discuss further if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi,

**Sija Robertson-Stone** (*pronoun - she/her*)

**Manager, Insights and Reporting Team | COVID-19 Group**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

E [sija.robertson-stone@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:sija.robertson-stone@dpmc.govt.nz)

s 9(2)(a)

**From:** Sija Robertson-Stone [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 2:53 pm  
**To:** Ivan Luketina [DPMC] <[Ivan.Luketinx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Ivan.Luketinx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; 'Megan McCoy' <[Megan.McCoy@health.govt.nz](mailto:Megan.McCoy@health.govt.nz)>; Liam McNamara <[Liam.McNamxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Liam.McNamxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; 'xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx' <[Daniel.Bernal@health.govt.nz](mailto:Daniel.Bernal@health.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Andrew Barrowclough <[Andrew.Barrowclough@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Barrowclough@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Vaccine Passports

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

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I am happy to discuss further if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi,

**Sija Robertson-Stone** (*pronoun - she/her*)  
**Manager, Insights and Reporting Team I COVID-19 Group**  
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
 E [sija.robertson-stone@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:sija.robertson-stone@dpmc.govt.nz)  
 s 9(2)(a)

**From:** Sija Robertson-Stone [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 12:25 pm  
**To:** 'CHAO, Timothy (Tim)' <[Timothy.Chao@police.govt.nz](mailto:Timothy.Chao@police.govt.nz)>; 'TAYLOR, Rebecca' <[Rebecca.TAYLOR2@police.govt.nz](mailto:Rebecca.TAYLOR2@police.govt.nz)>; 'TAI RAKENA, Ara (CPCD)' <[xxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxt.nz](mailto:xxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxt.nz)>; 'EMLEY Paul' <[Paul.EMLEY@customs.govt.nz](mailto:Paul.EMLEY@customs.govt.nz)>; 'Jacqui Taylor' <[Jacqueline.Taylor@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Jacqueline.Taylor@mbie.govt.nz)>; 'Alec Morrison' <[a.moxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.x](mailto:a.moxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.x)>; Shelley Tucker <[s.tucker@transport.govt.nz](mailto:s.tucker@transport.govt.nz)>; Brent Johnston <[B.Johnston@transport.govt.nz](mailto:B.Johnston@transport.govt.nz)>; 'Gill Hall' <[Gill.Hall@health.govt.nz](mailto:Gill.Hall@health.govt.nz)>; 'John McCarthy' <[John.McCarthy@health.govt.nz](mailto:John.McCarthy@health.govt.nz)>; 'Chris Knox' <[xxxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; 'James Harris' <[xxxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Emily McCarthy [DPMC]

<[Emily.McCarthy@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Emily.McCarthy@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Ian Brownlie [DPMC] <[Ian.Brownlie@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Ian.Brownlie@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Flint Prujean [DPMC] <[Flint.Prujean@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Flint.Prujean@dpmc.govt.nz)>

Cc: Andrew Barrowclough <[Andrew.Barrowclough@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Barrowclough@dpmc.govt.nz)>; 'Hayley Cameron' <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; 'Elise Steel' <[Elise.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Elise.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>

Subject: Vaccine Passports

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora,

I am hoping you might be able to help.

Building on from last week, we are seeking existing reporting related to vaccine passports.

We appreciate a lot of work has already been done in this space, and we are looking to build on it in a brief report to our Chief Executive, taking an across system view, focussing on international examples.

We are hoping to cover:

- countries using them
- the WHO / IATA context
- management and implementation of the passports (and verification)
- operational and strategic things to consider moving forward.

Please link in anyone else you think may be able to contribute content. (In particular, is there a contact at Global Health?)

We are hoping to collate the content by tomorrow afternoon (Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>).

I am happy to discuss further if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi,

**Sija Robertson-Stone** (*pronoun - she/her*)  
**Manager, Insights and Reporting Team | COVID-19 Group**  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
E [sija.robertson-stone@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:sija.robertson-stone@dpmc.govt.nz)  
s 9(2)(a)



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**From:** Maria Cotter  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 April 2021 4:22 pm  
**To:** Sija Robertson-Stone [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Jon Herries  
**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Passports and Certificates

Out of scope

I have had a quick look at your draft, and I endorse the comments from Alec (MoT) and these from Jon.

Ngā mihi

Maria

**Maria Cotter | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a)** [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa - We must work together for the wellbeing of all**




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**From:** Jon Herries <Jon.Herries@health.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 April 2021 3:10 pm  
**To:** Sija Robertson-Stone [DPMC] <Sija.Robertson-Stone@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Maria Cotter <Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz>; Megan McCoy <xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Alastair Kenworthy <Alastair.Kenwxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.nz>; Gill Hall <Gill.Hall@health.govt.nz>; Stephen Harris <Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz>; Laura Miller <laura.miller@health.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Passports and Certificates

Hi Sija,

Here are my comments attached, apologies for tardiness. As I previously said, there is need to sit down and talk about this as it is relatively complex and I don't think this captures things accurately.

Thanks,

Jon

Jon Herries  
**Emerging Health Technology & Innovation | Data and Digital**  
 s 9(2)(a) | [jon.herries@health.govt.nz](mailto:jon.herries@health.govt.nz)  
 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington

Join the conversation at: <https://www.yammer.com/emerginghealthtechnology>



**From:** Sija Robertson-Stone [DPMC] <[Sija.Robertson-xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Sija.Robertson-xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 3:13 pm  
**To:** CHAO, Timothy (Tim) <[Timothy.Chao@police.govt.nz](mailto:Timothy.Chao@police.govt.nz)>; TAI RAKENA, Ara (CPCD) <[xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; EMLEY Paul <[Paul.EMLEY@customs.govt.nz](mailto:Paul.EMLEY@customs.govt.nz)>; Jacqui Taylor <[Jacqueline.Taylor@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Jacqueline.Taylor@mbie.govt.nz)>; Alec Morrison <[x.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:x.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Shelley Tucker <[s.tucker@transport.govt.nz](mailto:s.tucker@transport.govt.nz)>; Brent Johnston <[B.Johnston@transport.govt.nz](mailto:B.Johnston@transport.govt.nz)>; Gill Hall <[Gill.Hall@health.govt.nz](mailto:Gill.Hall@health.govt.nz)>; John McCarthy <[John.McCarthy@health.govt.nz](mailto:John.McCarthy@health.govt.nz)>; Chris Knox <[xxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; James Harris <[xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.nz)>; Emily McCarthy [DPMC] <[Emily.McCarthy@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Emily.McCarthy@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Ian Brownlie [DPMC] <[Ian.Brownlie@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Ian.Brownlie@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Flint Prujean [DPMC] <[Flint.Prujean@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Flint.Prujean@dpmc.govt.nz)>; O'REILLY, Thomas (John) <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Brent Johnston <[B.Johnston@transport.govt.nz](mailto:B.Johnston@transport.govt.nz)>; B Driscoll-Ext <[b.driscoll@transport.govt.nz](mailto:b.driscoll@transport.govt.nz)>; Ivan Luketina [DPMC] <[Ivan.Luketina@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Ivan.Luketina@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Megan McCoy <[Megan.McCoy@health.govt.nz](mailto:Megan.McCoy@health.govt.nz)>; Liam McNamara <[Liam.McNamxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Liam.McNamxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Dan Bernal <[Daniel.Bernal@health.govt.nz](mailto:Daniel.Bernal@health.govt.nz)>; Jacqui Taylor <[Jacqueline.Taylor@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Jacqueline.Taylor@mbie.govt.nz)>; Jon Herries <[Jon.Herries@health.govt.nz](mailto:Jon.Herries@health.govt.nz)>; Maria Cotter <[Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz)>; Erica McMillan <[Erica.McMillxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Erica.McMillxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Alastair Kenworthy <[Alastair.Kenworthy@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alastair.Kenworthy@health.govt.nz)>; Hayley Cameron <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Stephen Harris <[Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz](mailto:Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz)>; Elise Steel <[Elise.Steel@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Elise.Steel@mbie.govt.nz)>; rachel.spencer <[rachel.spencer@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:rachel.spencer@mfat.govt.nz)>; Laura Miller <[laura.miller@health.govt.nz](mailto:laura.miller@health.govt.nz)>; Maree Roberts <[Maree.Roberts@health.govt.nz](mailto:Maree.Roberts@health.govt.nz)>; B Driscoll-Ext <[b.driscoll@transport.govt.nz](mailto:b.driscoll@transport.govt.nz)>; William Hopgood ([william.hopgood@dia.govt.nz](mailto:william.hopgood@dia.govt.nz)) <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx)>; Kate Rose <[Kate.Rose@health.govt.nz](mailto:Kate.Rose@health.govt.nz)>; Dion Chamberlain <[xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx)>; [k.hewlett@transport.govt.nz](mailto:k.hewlett@transport.govt.nz)  
**Cc:** Andrew Barrowclough <[Andrew.Barrowclough@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Barrowclough@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Passports and Certificates

Kia ora,

Regarding vaccine passports, thank you to those of you that have been able to provide content, we appreciate it is a busy time for you working in this space.

The working draft of our report is attached for your consideration. Any feedback will be gratefully received, and would be appreciated by 1pm tomorrow (9 April).

As per our previous email our task is to write a brief initial report for our Chief Executive, taking an across system view, focussing on international examples regarding vaccine passports, including countries using them, management and implementation of the passports (and verification), the WHO / IATA context, and operational and strategic things to consider moving forward.

It is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather to be read alongside work that is underway.

If you would like to summarise any work you are doing in this space, and anticipated timeframes when your reporting will be available, we would be happy to refer to it in the covering email, or report.

Please note this is a working draft, and we will continue to work on it through to release, as we receive your feedback.

Please note the report is classified as RESTRICTED, and should be handled appropriately.

If you have any questions or concerns we are happy to help.

Ngā mihi,

**Sija Robertson-Stone** (*pronoun - she/her*)  
**Manager, Insights and Reporting Team | COVID-19 Group**  
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

E [sija.robertson-stone@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:sija.robertson-stone@dpmc.govt.nz)

s 9(2)(a)



**DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**  
TE TARI O TE PERIMIA ME TE KŌHITI NATUA

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** Maria Cotter  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 10:09 am  
**To:** Anna Pendergrast  
**Cc:** Janelle Eagleton; B Driscoll-Ext; Alec Morrison; Jon Herries; Stephen Harris; Laura Miller  
**Subject:** DIA briefing for Minister Clark re vaccine certificates for s6(b)(i) & Data Ministers meeting  
**Attachments:** s(6)(b)(i) ar86\_2020-21 COVID-19 vaccines and the Border - R.pdf; Breifing - Introduction to the Travel Health Pass Work Programme.pdf  
**Importance:** High

- COVID-19 vaccines and border attachment is a DPMC document and therefore will be released by DPMC
- Travel Health Pass Work Programme briefing attachment is a Ministry of Transport document and therefore will be released by Transport

Morena Anna

I trust you have been in touch with Bev Discoll or Alec Morrison at the Ministry of Transport (I have cc'd them into this email). Below is some material in response to your 3 questions s 6(b)(i)

- Info about the Covid-19 Immunisation Register for recording who has had vaccines (including how this links to the wider NIS project and whether individuals can access their records through this) [I have some info on this from my colleague Grant Carpenter]  
 We have a register in Salesforce called the COVID Immunisation Register. This holds information about who was vaccinated and the vaccine that was administered and when it uses the NHI as the identifier for the person. We are developing plans to support consumers to access this information, but any process is subject to a co-design process.
- Which agency/team is leading policy work around the issue of when/if travel certs might need to be used etc (e.g. for travel) and are there some key points about this work we can provide to Minister Clark.  
 A cross-government agency group has recently been established to start looking at what policy and operational settings may be needed to implement vaccine certificate/health travel passes in New Zealand. The Travel Health Pass Programme focuses on the role of traveller health certificates in facilitating travel in and out of New Zealand. The aim of this programme is to position New Zealand to be able to move when the health science says it is safe to do so, recognising that international connectivity remains fundamental to the economic and social wellbeing of New Zealanders. The programme acknowledges there are significant unknowns about the efficacy of vaccines, and pace of global and domestic immunisation against COVID-19.  
 This work is still at the very early scoping stages, but the group has recently started meeting on a weekly basis. Agency participants are the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Health, the Department of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, New Zealand Customs Service, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. This work sits under the "Keep it out" pillar of the Elimination Strategy and is overseen by the COVID-19 Border Executive Board. Since February 2021, the Ministry of Transport has been the lead agency coordinating this programme. From here on as vaccine certificates are principally a health issue, the Ministry of Health will take a joint role with the Ministry of Transport in leading this work programme.
- Is any work underway to develop a specific vaccine credential/certificate for individuals to use and are there any details that can be shared around the technical approach (at a high level).  
 Yes, the Ministry of Health is looking to run a Proof of Concept for a digital vaccine certificate. In the interim, people who are vaccinated in New Zealand are provided a COVID-19 vaccination card linked to their NHI.

*Anna – rather than provide technical detail here, my colleague Jon Herries suggested it may be better to have a conversation with your DIA colleagues Alan Bell, Tony Eyles or Anne-Marie Cavanagh about this.*



And here is some more generic information, which may be useful background for your briefing.

1. Globally considerable activity is underway to develop a COVID-19 vaccine certificate, both at government and intergovernmental levels and in the private sector. Vaccine certificates are being seen as a tool to provide greater confidence for the safer reopening of borders and resumption of international travel.
2. The Ministry of Health is actively involved in building the information technology platforms to enable identity linked COVID-19 digital vaccination certification for New Zealanders. It is important that work continues at pace as it lays the groundwork to enable a workable solution that can be operationalised when the time is right. There are also key policy and operational questions that need to be resolved along this process. Key among them:
  - how do we ensure New Zealand's certificate has interoperability with a global certification system?
  - what is the best platform for the certificate?
  - under what circumstances would we use vaccine certificates to ease border and domestic control measures to international travellers?
3. At the government agency level, the Ministry of Transport has convened a Multi-Agency Travel Pass forum to coordinate cross government work towards a solution for New Zealand. The Travel Health Pass Programme focuses on the role of traveller health certificates in facilitating travel in and out of New Zealand. As vaccine certificates are principally a health issue, the Ministry of Health will take a joint role with the Ministry of Transport in leading this work programme.
4. This forum sits under the COVID-19 Border Executive Board. There are different streams of work led by different agencies. It is a system comprising:
  - digital identity linked vaccination certificates
  - diplomatic settings about who can travel and enter New Zealand
  - travel certificates and transaction at the border
  - the interface between domestic and international settings.
5. Progressing a clear sequenced work programme that captures the end to end process for travel to and from New Zealand and that has health and information privacy considerations at the forefront is imperative.
6. This work is mediated by the timing and extent of the relaxation of our borders (and the public health measures placed upon inbound travellers such as managed isolation and testing) which is informed by roll-out of vaccines domestically and internationally, the science about vaccine efficacy and the behaviour of the SARS CoV-2 virus.
7. The Multi-Agency Travel Pass Programme also maintains a watching brief over the various work streams underway internationally to ensure interdependencies, issues, and risks are identified and managed
8. There are a number of significant policy issues to work through to firm up a NZ All of Government position on COVID-19 vaccine certificates, such as:

Under what circumstances would we use vaccine certificates to ease border and domestic control measures (testing and MIQ) to international travellers?

What credentials will NZ require of international travellers?

How will NZ differentiate varying certifying authorities (e.g. WHO, EU, countries) and among different vaccinations for incoming travellers?

How do we deal with people who can't be vaccinated? (incoming and outgoing)

What information is displayed on the credential itself (privacy vs security)

Will Verifiable Credentials (VC) have other uses beyond international travel?

How do we generate those QR codes in the vaccination process (that bind an event to the person)?
QR codes that represent a VC are very dense – how do we manage to minimise this?
The User Experience is critical – how do we make it simple to recognise and use?
Does the QR code invalidate itself after single use?
How do we onboard NZers to this – are they interested in seeing their vaccination history?
What happens when someone arrives without a recognised vaccine certificate?
How useful are the WHO standards going to be (when should we start)?
What are the Identification Management Standards, how do they apply to the creation of certificates?
Can we sweep up identity with rollout of the second vaccine?
Can we create verifiable credentials against other countries passports?
How long might we need/require vaccine certificates?

9. Additional to the fundamental questions around vaccine efficacy and population coverage are also questions around equity, privacy and ethics and interoperability.

*What are vaccine certificates?*

10. Vaccine certificates are digital or physical documents that establish proof of vaccination (date, vaccine, place of vaccination etc), and can be linked to the identity of the holder. Digital vaccine certificates are proposed as a tool to give confidence in the easing of border restrictions and allow international travel without compromising personal or public health.
11. At the moment, people who are vaccinated in New Zealand as part of the COVID-19 immunisation programme receive a paper vaccination booklet linked to their NHI.
12. Digital vaccine certificates are an extension of a known technology, Verifiable Credentials. These are able to be printed and can be used to prove a certificate is valid. They conventionally take the form of an electronic file or document and can be summarised with a QR code, this is used to verify the certificates authenticity. Evidence that the person owns the certificate comes from printing some of the identifying information of the person on the certificate, such as a passport number or NHI number.
13. The use of Verifiable Credentials is seen by many in the global technology industry as a mechanism to increase the security of proof of identity, and to therefore facilitate reductions in fraud and enable various new business models. This also forms the basis of the Department of Internal Affairs' work programme on Digital Identity, where a number of these verifiable credentials from various sources comprise elements of a Digital Identity. From a technical perspective, the ability for an agency to create and maintain large numbers of these credentials would allow the creation of significant value for the economy, with the understanding that in order for this to happen, the process for creating them needs to support the trust they engender.
14. The WHO and forums of experts (such as the UK Royal Society<sup>[1]</sup>) has urged caution about introducing proof of COVID-19 vaccination for international travellers until more is known about the efficacy of vaccines and until vaccines become more available. The WHO has also raised concerns about how those who cannot be vaccinated would participate.
15. The WHO International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic will review its position on vaccine certificates for international travel on 14 April 2021. In the meantime, it is leading the development of agreed standards and specifications for vaccine certificates.

16. While the WHO is currently recommending against the use of vaccine passports, it has convened an independent expert working group to establish standards for digital vaccination certificates used in member states. The WHO emphasises it is critical to reiterate that the smart vaccination certificate (SVC) is not intended to serve as an 'immunity passport'.
17. There are three New Zealanders participating on this expert group, Alastair Kenworthy (Chief Standards Advisor, Data and Digital from the Ministry) and two others from industry. This working group aims to establish recommended standards for security, authentication, privacy and data exchange for vaccine certificates and provide best practice guidance for use.
18. WHO released on 19 March the first draft of the smart vaccination certificate specification for public feedback. We can provide constructive feedback on the first draft and at the same time do the groundwork for an eventual solution that conforms to the specification, which is already very detailed, albeit with some open questions. At this stage we are confident and comfortable with the direction with the draft specification, which presents no challenges for New Zealand. By adhering to the specification, New Zealand can be sure to have mutual recognition of vaccination certificates with every other country that does the same.
19. The WHO will finalise this guidance by the end of June 2021 and will produce six-monthly revisions thereafter. This guidance and WHO's leadership will be key to establishing international trust agreements for the use of vaccine certificates.

s 6(b)(i)

Also, given the importance of global interoperability you may want to refer to the WHO work to develop guidance for member states on developing a COVID-19 Smart Vaccine Certificate. Here are some links

<https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-public-comments-interim-guidance-for-developing-a-smart-vaccination-certificate-release-candidate-1>

[https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/interim-guidance-svc\\_20210319\\_final.pdf?sfvrsn=b95db77d\\_11&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/interim-guidance-svc_20210319_final.pdf?sfvrsn=b95db77d_11&download=true)

Regarding your invitation to attend an officials meeting this Friday (tomorrow), prior to the Ministerial meeting, my colleague Jon Herries (Group Manager, Emerging Health Technologies and Innovation, Digital and Data) would be very interested to attend. I have cc'd Jon into this email [Jon.Herries@health.govt.nz](mailto:Jon.Herries@health.govt.nz) Tel: s 9(2)(a) . Please email him directly about this.

Lastly, please can you share your briefing with me Jon Herries and Bev Driscoll (MoT) when it is finalised. Thanks

Ngā mihi

Maria

**Maria Cotter | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy**

System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a) [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa** - We must work together for the wellbeing of all



**From:** Maria Cotter  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 4:58 pm  
**To:** Anna Pendergrast <Anna.Pendergraxx@xxx.xxxx.nz>  
**Cc:** Janelle Eagleton <Janelle.Eagleton@dia.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: MoH contact for travel pass

Hi Anna  
 Thanks for this.

I will provide you with some material on the 3 points tomorrow (as I have to dash now). But in the meantime, here's a bit of background. Since Feb 2021, the Ministry of Transport has been coordinating a multi-agency travel health pass work programme – which some have referred to as the vaccine passport work. David Philp and Dion Chamberlain are the DIA representative on this programme. From here on, this work is being joint led with Ministry of Health. This work is still at the very early stages, but we are looped into some international developments.

Alec Morrison (MoT) ([x.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:x.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)) is currently preparing a briefing for Minister Hipkins on this work, and last Thursday MoT sent over an introduction briefing (attached). The lead GM is Bev Driscoll. [b.driscoll@transport.govt.nz](mailto:b.driscoll@transport.govt.nz)

I'll get you those para's tomorrow

Ngā mihi

Maria

**Maria Cotter** | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a) [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa** - We must work together for the wellbeing of all



**From:** Anna Pendergrast <[Anna.Pendexxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.x](mailto:Anna.Pendexxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.x)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 2:23 pm  
**To:** Maria Cotter <[Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Janelle Eagleton <[Janelle.Eagleton@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Janelle.Eagleton@dia.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: MoH contact for travel pass

Hi Maria

Thanks for your email.

The briefing will have info and background to support minister Clark s 6(b)(i)

We haven't got the final agenda yet, but we do know that one of the topics will be Vaccine certificates. Minister Clark is part of conversations but actions/commitments are not usually required of him in relation to agenda items.

For this part of our briefing, s 6(b)(i) outline what NZ is doing, note any differences between the two, and provide short talking points. I plan to also note that responsibility for much of this NZ work sits with other Depts/Ministers (although the DIA Digital Public Service branch does have support roles to play).

s 6(b)(i)

They key points I think we probably need to cover are below. If you can provide a short paragraph or so for each of the 2<sup>nd</sup> two bullets below would be great:

- Info about the Covid-19 Immunisation Register for recording who has had vaccines (including how this links to the wider NIS project and whether individuals can access their records through this) [I have some info on this from my colleague Grant Carpenter]
- Which agency/team is leading policy work around the issue of when/if travel certs might need to be used etc (e.g. for travel) and are there some key points about this work we can provide to Minister Clark.
- Is any work underway to develop a specific vaccine credential/certificate for individuals to use and are there any details that can be shared around the technical approach (at a high level).

**I note there is also an officials meeting this Friday ahead of the Ministerial meeting this week, so please let me know if you or one of your colleagues, thinks it would be good to attend.**

Let me know if you have any questions. The final briefing goes to my DCE for sign out next Monday, so if you're able to provide me with any info by 12pm Thursday, that would be amazing.

Also, please let me know if I should re-direct these questions to Dion here at DIA. I am pretty new in this role, so working how all the bits fit together, but did want to make sure Health was looped in here!

Thanks

Anna

s 9(2)(a)

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**From:** Maria Cotter <[Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** Janelle Eagleton <[Janelle.Eagleton@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Janelle.Eagleton@dia.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Anna Pendergrast <[Anna.Pendergrast@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Anna.Pendergrast@xxx.xxxx.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: MoH contact for travel pass

Kia ora korua Janelle and Anna – can you give me a bit of an idea on what the briefing is about?

Thanks

Maria

**Maria Cotter** | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a) [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa** - We must work together for the wellbeing of all




---

**From:** Janelle Eagleton <[Janelle.Eagleton@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Janelle.Eagleton@xxx.xxxx.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 12:58 pm  
**To:** Caitlin Hawkins <[Caitlin.Hawkins@health.govt.nz](mailto:Caitlin.Hawkins@health.govt.nz)>

Cc: Maria Cotter <Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz>; Anna Pendergrast <Anna.Pendergrast@dia.govt.nz>  
Subject: RE: MoH contact for travel pass

Thanks Caitlin, kia ora Maria,

My colleague Anna, in copy, is holding the pen on this briefing and she would be keen to discuss briefly today or tomorrow, and share with a draft when available. s 6(b)(i)

Anna's contact number is s 9(2)(a) if its easier to give her a call directly 😊

Anna is also looping Dion in, but he is not in the office today.

Thanks so much again for the intro  
Janelle

---

**From:** Caitlin Hawkins <Caitlin.Hawkins@health.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** Janelle Eagleton <Janelle.Eagleton@dia.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Maria Cotter <Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** MoH contact for travel pass

Hi Janelle!

I am putting you in touch with Maria, who is a Principal Policy Analyst in COVID-19 Policy. She is working on the travel pass work from a Health perspective s 6(b)(i)

Also, just in case you don't know who is working on travel pass from DIA it's David Philp and Dion Chamberlain!

C 😊

**Caitlin Hawkins (she/her)**  
Manager Privacy and Risk | COVID-19 Directorate |  
Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health |  
Waea pūkoro: s 9(2)(a)  
[www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)



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**From:** B Driscoll-Ext  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 March 2021 2:28 pm  
**To:** Megan McCoy; MCINTYRE, Elspeth (CMD); SPENCER, Rachel (CPCD)  
**Cc:** KARRAN, Glenys (CPCD); ROBERTSON, Pip (CMD); Erica McMillan; Melanee Beatson; Mark Wardle; Brent Johnston  
**Subject:** RE: Lines on travel pass work  
**Attachments:** RE: Media enquiry - MOH's position on vaccine passports used for overseas travel

Many thanks all, that's appreciated, and my apologies for coming late into this.

Mark – FYI from a comms perspective.

Cheers

Bev

---

**From:** Megan McCoy <Megxx.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 March 2021 1:15 PM  
**To:** MCINTYRE, Elspeth (CMD) <Elspeth.McIntyxx@xxxx.xxxx.nz>; SPENCER, Rachel (CPCD) <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Cc:** Bev Driscoll <B.Driscoll@transport.govt.nz>; KARRAN, Glenys (CPCD) <Glenyx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.nz>; ROBERTSON, Pip (CMD) <Pip.Roberxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.nz>; Erica McMillan <Erixx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Melanee Beatson <M.Bxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Lines on travel pass work

Hi folks – FYI - have provided the attached to our media team. (Thanks Rachel for the lines as below + Mel for the quick chat just now).

Many thanks

Megan

**Megan McCoy**

Group Manager Global Health  
 Ministry of Health, New Zealand

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)

<http://www.health.govt.nz>




---

**From:** MCINTYRE, Elspeth (CMD) <Elspeth.McIntyre@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 March 2021 1:09 pm  
**To:** SPENCER, Rachel (CPCD) <Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz>; Megan McCoy <Megan.McCoy@health.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** B Driscoll-Ext <b.driscoll@transport.govt.nz>; KARRAN, Glenys (CPCD) <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.nz >; ROBERTSON, Pip (CMD) <Pip.Robertxxx@xxxx.xxxx.nz >  
**Subject:** RE: Lines on travel pass work

[UNCLASSIFIED]

A couple of suggestions from me in red.

Just checking Pip is across this?



Ngā mihi

Elspeth, CMD  
(she/her/they/them)

s 9(2)(a)

**From:** SPENCER, Rachel (CPCD) <[Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 March 2021 12:54 PM  
**To:** [Megan.McCoy@health.govt.nz](mailto:Megan.McCoy@health.govt.nz)  
**Cc:** MCINTYRE, Elspeth (CMD) <[Elspeth.McIntyrx@xxxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Elspeth.McIntyrx@xxxx.xxxx.nz)>; Bev Driscoll <[B.Driscoll@transport.govt.nz](mailto:B.Driscoll@transport.govt.nz)>; KARRAN, Glenys (CPCD) <[Glenys.Karrax@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Glenys.Karrax@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** Lines on travel pass work

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Megan,

The draft lines we have around the travel passes work are below. These have not been cleared through the Travel Pass Interagency Group – but were circulated in earlier email conversations.

Elspeth/Bev/Glenys: this is in relation to media inquiry MoH has received on the topic of vaccine passports.

***What will a vaccine mean for New Zealand's border settings?***

At this stage we cannot say how the availability of vaccines in New Zealand and internationally will affect New Zealand's border controls.

Although the data confirm the vaccines protect individuals from the effects of the virus, it is too early for researchers to confirm whether a vaccinated person could still be a carrier and transmit COVID-19 to someone else. Until that information is certain we need to maintain our current border settings.

***When will New Zealand be able to reopen the border and/or change isolation on arrival settings?***

As above. We continue to pursue an elimination strategy for New Zealand. The question of when we can safely reopen our borders is a question for health experts.

***What are New Zealand's views on a vaccine or immunity certification?***

We are watching developments in this space closely and working with ~~likeminded~~ partners to inform our approach going forward. ('likeminded' indicates we know our mind, but the response indicates we don't yet)

***Will New Zealanders need a vaccine or immunity certificate in order to travel?***

We are watching developments in this space closely with a view to ensuring that New Zealanders who need to return will be able to do so.

Ngā mihi,

Rachel

**Rachel Spencer**

**Senior Policy Officer – Health Liaison**

COVID Policy and Coordination Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere



E [rachel.spexxxx@xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:rachel.spexxxx@xxx.xxx.xx) T s 9(2)(a)

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901, Wellington 5045, New Zealand

[www.mfat.govt.nz](http://www.mfat.govt.nz) | [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz)



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**From:** Megan McCoy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 March 2021 1:14 pm  
**To:** Deidre Mussen  
**Cc:** Erica McMillan; Jon Herries; Kate Rose; Kirsten Stephenson  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry - MOH's position on vaccine passports used for overseas travel  
**Attachments:** Vaccine passports reactive Q and A 2 Mar.docx

Hi Deirdre

Here you go, as below. You can use the attached for responses that come up from now on.

- We are watching developments in this space closely and working with other agencies to inform our approach going forward. At this stage, it is too early to know whether a vaccinated person could still be a carrier and transmit COVID-19 to someone else. Therefore the Ministry of Health does not yet have a position on the use of vaccine passports for international travel.

**Jon/Kate/Kirsten** – sending you all as couple of key contacts as an FYI. Text consistent with what other agencies use (spoke to MFAT and MOT) – see attached as well.

**Erica** – can you please save this in Lotus.

Many thanks

Megan

**Megan McCoy**

Group Manager Global Health  
 Ministry of Health, New Zealand  
 Mobile: s 9(2)(a)  
<http://www.health.govt.nz>




---

**From:** Deidre Mussen <Deidre.Mussen@health.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 March 2021 12:06 pm  
**To:** Megan McCoy <Megan.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry - MOH's position on vaccine passports used for overseas travel

Awesome – thanks heaps 😊

**Deidre Mussen** | Senior Communications Advisor | External Communications & Engagement | Office of the Director-General | Ministry of Health  
 s 9(2)(a) | e: [Deidre.Mxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Deidre.Mxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)




---

**From:** Megan McCoy <[Megax.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Megax.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 March 2021 12:04 pm

**To:** Deidre Mussen <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Bronwyn Locke <[Bronwyn.Locke@health.govt.nz](mailto:Bronwyn.Locke@health.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media enquiry - MOH's position on vaccine passports used for overseas travel

That sits with me not Bron. Will get you something shortly.

Many thanks

Megan

Megan McCoy  
Group Manager Global Health and Director-General Advisory  
Ministry of Health, New Zealand  
s 9(2)(a)

---

**From:** Deidre Mussen <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:58:21 AM  
**To:** Megan McCoy <[Megan.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Megan.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Bronwyn Locke <[xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** FW: Media enquiry - MOH's position on vaccine passports used for overseas travel

Hi Megan and Bronwyn

We've received this query below about vaccine passports. Are you able to help with lines please? Or should I refer this on? Her deadline is this afternoon. I know this was discussed at a media stand-up more than a week ago and I could simply direct her to that content.

Cheers  
Deidre

**Deidre Mussen** | Senior Communications Advisor | External Communications & Engagement | Office of the Director-General | Ministry of Health

s 9(2)(a) | e: [Deidre.Mxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Deidre.Mxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)



**From:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 March 2021 10:50 am  
**To:** Media MOH <[media@health.govt.nz](mailto:media@health.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Media enquiry - MOH's position on vaccine passports used for overseas travel

Hi there,

I'm working on an explainer story about the arguments for and against the use of vaccine passports for international travel.

The World Health Organisation has advised against their use for international travel due to the critical unknowns around the efficacy of vaccination in reducing transmission, as well as limited availability of vaccines.

With Air New Zealand currently trialling vaccine passports, what is the Ministry of Health's position on their use specifically for international travel?

My deadline is 2pm today.

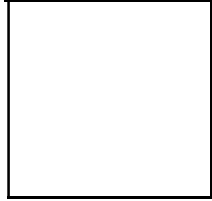
Many thanks,

s 9(2)

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s 9(2)(a)

Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street, Wellington 6011

s 9(2)(a)



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**Vaccine passports/certification – for reactive media enquires @ 2 March 2021****Primary Q and A****What is the Ministry's position on vaccine certification/passports?**

We are watching developments in this space closely and working with other agencies to inform our approach going forward. At this stage, it is too early to know whether a vaccinated person could still be a carrier and transmit COVID-19 to someone else. Therefore the Ministry of Health does not yet have a position on the use of vaccine passports for international travel.

**Supplementary Q and A****What work is the Ministry involved in globally?**

The Ministry works with a range of different organisations, including the World Health Organisation, on issues of global importance such as this.

**What will a vaccine mean for New Zealand's border settings?**

At this stage we cannot say how the vaccine roll-out in New Zealand and internationally will affect New Zealand's border controls.

**When will New Zealand be able to reopen the border and/or change isolation on arrival settings?**

As above. We continue to pursue an elimination strategy for New Zealand.

**Will New Zealanders need a vaccine or immunity certificate in order to travel?**

We are watching developments in this space closely with a view to ensuring that New Zealanders who need to return will be able to do so.

**Key contact for MOH media**

- Megan McCoy, Group Manager Global Health s 9(2)(a) .

**Background**

- Agencies have not provided advice to the Government; therefore we do not have a NZ nor MOH position that we can share at this stage.
- MOH is working with other government agencies to consider the potential for vaccine passports/certification in future.
- Many issues still need to be worked through both globally and before – in particular transmission of the disease
- Within MOH, SS&P, D&D, COVID Directorate and Global Health are involved. Global Health is current coordination point.

**Earlier MOH comments**

Attributed to MOH on 17 February:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/news/300232220/covid19-officials-working-on-potential-vaccine-certificate-to-be-used-for-travel>

The Ministry of Health is working closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the issue, which is proposing a "Smart Vaccination Certificate".

A Ministry of Health spokesperson said "There are a number of different international initiatives underway and the Ministry of Health has been working with parties across the Government, including the Ministry of Transport, as well as local stakeholders, such as Air New Zealand and Auckland International Airport.

"Work has been underway for some months to resolve a number of issues. These include countering fake documentation and creating the standards required to meet international obligations."

The Ministry explained it is working closely with the WHO on standards for the certificate, so it would be widely accepted. The WHO has convened a panel of experts to design a certificate, and will "publish recommended standards for security, authentication, privacy, and data exchange."

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**From:** Maria Cotter  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 9:14 am  
**To:** SPENCER, Rachel (CPCD)  
**Cc:** KARRAN, Glenys (CPCD); Stephen Harris; Megan McCoy; Jon Herries; Stephen Harris; B Driscoll-Ext; Brent Johnston; Erica McMillan; Nathan Crawford; Dion.Chamberlain@dia.govt.nz; Bryre.Patchell@customs.govt.nz; Laura.SEARANCKx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx; xxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx; Ivan Luketina [DPMC; Kate Rose; Megan McCoy; Jon Herries; Greg Henderson; Petex.xxxx@xxxx.xxx.nz; Sian Roguski; Stephen Dunstan; Philip.Houldinx@xxx.xxx.nz; Sam Tendeter [TSY  
**Subject:** RE: Engagement with s 6(b)(i) on travel health pass

Morena Rachel – thanks for taking my call yesterday about the upcoming s 6(b)(i).

We would definitely like to have Health at this meeting.

s 6(b)(i) so it would be preferable for Jon to be at this meeting also. Note, Jon is away on 21<sup>st</sup> however.

Do you know if there will be a s 6(b)(i) person on this call?

Ideally we would like the meeting to be scheduled later if at all possible.

Ngā mihi

Maria

**Maria Cotter | Principal Policy Analyst, Covid-19 Policy**  
 System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | s 9(2)(a) [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz)

**Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa** - We must work together for the wellbeing of all



**From:** SPENCER, Rachel (CPCD) <Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 April 2021 4:12 pm  
**To:** Stephen Harris <Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz>; B Driscoll-Ext <b.driscoll@transport.govt.nz>; Brent Johnston <B.Johnston@transport.govt.nz>; Erica McMillan <xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx.xx>; Maria Cotter <Maria.Cotter@health.govt.nz>; Nathan Crawford <Nathan.Crawford@mbie.govt.nz>; Dion.Chamberxxx@xxx.xxvt.nz; Bryre.Patchell@customs.govt.nz; xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx; david.philp@dia.govt.nz; Ivan Luketina [DPMC] <Ivan.Luketina@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kate Rose <Kate.Rose@health.govt.nz>; Megan McCoy <Megan.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx.xx>; Jon Herries <Jon.Herries@health.govt.nz>; Greg Henderson <greg.henderson@mbie.govt.nz>; Peter.Elms@mbie.govt.nz; Sian Roguski <Sian.Roguski@mbie.govt.nz>; Stephen Dunstan <Stephen.Dunstan@mbie.govt.nz>; Philip.Houlding@mpi.govt.nz; Sam Tendeter [TSY] <Sam.Tendeter@treasury.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** KARRAN, Glenys (CPCD) <Glenys.Karrxx@xxxx.xxvt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Engagement with s 6(b)(i) on travel health pass

Kia ora koutou,

s 6(b)(i)

s 6(b)(i)

s 6(b)(i)

Grateful for an indication of:

- Which agencies wish to participate?
- Which time works for your agency?

s 6(b)(i)

MFAT will work on a draft agenda to circulate early next week.

Cheers,

Rachel

---

**From:** SPENCER, Rachel (CPCD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 1:53 PM  
**To:** Stephen Harris <[Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz](mailto:Stephen.Harris@health.govt.nz)>; Bev Driscoll <[B.Driscoll@transport.govt.nz](mailto:B.Driscoll@transport.govt.nz)>; Brent Johnston <[B.Johnston@transport.govt.nz](mailto:B.Johnston@transport.govt.nz)>; Erica McMillan <[xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; [maria.cotter@health.govt.nz](mailto:maria.cotter@health.govt.nz); 'Nathan Crawford' <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; [xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx) ; [Bryre.Patchell@customs.govt.nz](mailto:Bryre.Patchell@customs.govt.nz); [xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxvt.nz](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxvt.nz) ; [xxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxt.nz](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxt.nz); Ivan Luketina [DPMC] <[xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Kate Rose <[Kate.Rose@health.govt.nz](mailto:Kate.Rose@health.govt.nz)>; Megan McCoy <[Megan.McCoy@health.govt.nz](mailto:Megan.McCoy@health.govt.nz)>; Jon Herries <[Jon.Herries@health.govt.nz](mailto:Jon.Herries@health.govt.nz)>; Greg Henderson <[greg.hendersxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:greg.hendersxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; [Peter.Elms@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Peter.Elms@mbie.govt.nz); Sian Roguski <[Sian.Roguski@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Sian.Roguski@mbie.govt.nz)>; Stephen Dunstan <[Stephen.Dunstan@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Stephen.Dunstan@mbie.govt.nz)>; [Philip.Houlding@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Philip.Houlding@mpi.govt.nz); Sam Tendeter [TSY] <[Sam.Tendeter@treasury.govt.nz](mailto:Sam.Tendeter@treasury.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** KARRAN, Glenys (CPCD) <[xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxvt.nz](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxvt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Engagement with s 6(b)(i) on travel health pass

Kia ora koutou,

s 6(b)(i)

s 6(b)(i) Will be in touch once a time/date has been identified.

Ngā mihi,

Rachel Spencer  
 Senior Policy Officer – Health Liaison  
 COVID Policy and Coordination Division  
 New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs



E [rachel.spexxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:rachel.spexxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx) T s 9(2)(a)

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**From:** KEMP, Peter <sup>s 6(b)(i)</sup> <[peter.kemp@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:peter.kemp@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 2:21 AM  
**To:** SPENCER, Rachel (CPCD) <[Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** STANBURY, Brendan (SEA) <[Brendan.Stanbuxx@xxxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Brendan.Stanbuxx@xxxx.xxxx.nz)>  
**Subject:** s 6(b)(i)

Hi Rachel

s 6(b)(i)

s 6(b)(i)

s 6(b)(i)

Regards

Pete

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**From:** Kate Rose  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 February 2021 1:37 pm  
**To:** Angela Hassan-Sharp; Awhina Thomson; Maria Cotter  
**Subject:** FW: Vaccine Certification

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Just looping you in

**Kate Rose**

Senior Policy Analyst  
 Investment and Funding Strategy, Strategy  
 System Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health | DDI: 04 816 2887




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**From:** Therese Egan <therese.egan@health.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 February 2021 11:59 am  
**To:** Sahar Fanian <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Allison Bennett <Allison.Bennett@health.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Kate Rose <Kate.Rose@health.govt.nz>; Catie van der Vloodt <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Certification

As suggested earlier, I think we need to do an update paper for the Vaccine and Immunisation Steering Group that carries on from the early Jan paper and clearly states the science, what this means for Ministry position, what we are doing to learn more (incl NZ research), clear messages for other agencies and the public. Plus work that is happening, expected deliverables and timeframes.

With all of this pressure coming from Transport and others, it may be best if we can get this completed this week, for Steering Group next Tuesday. On the negative side to that is making sure all Ministry people with some involvement have opportunity for input which would favour a next week timeframe for Tuesday 9 March.

I note that a longer timeframe would not change the main messages, the science is not going to move quickly, nor I understand is the technical side of preparing for any future validation/verification regime.

Allison, any preferences for timing? I suppose another option could be to split into two papers, the first on the science and main messages, and the second on the work being done, deliverables & timeframes?

Therese

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**From:** Sahar Fanian <[Sahar.Fanian@health.govt.nz](mailto:Sahar.Fanian@health.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 February 2021 11:25 am  
**To:** Allison Bennett <[Allison.Bennett@health.govt.nz](mailto:Allison.Bennett@health.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Therese Egan <[therese.egan@health.govt.nz](mailto:therese.egan@health.govt.nz)>; Kate Rose <[Kate.Rose@health.govt.nz](mailto:Kate.Rose@health.govt.nz)>; Catie van der Vloodt <[Catie.VanDerVloodt@health.govt.nz](mailto:Catie.VanDerVloodt@health.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Vaccine Certification

Hi Allison,

We've done some digging (largely thanks to Kate who was tasked by Caroline to find out who is doing work in the vaccine certification space!). I've provided an overview of who is doing what below.

Vaccine Certification Stand Ups (Global Health):

- There is a regular stand-up happening on vaccine certification, chaired by Global Health (Megan McCoy) – see Monday’s agenda and slide deck attached as an FYI.
- These stand ups include the following people: Angela Hassan-Sharp, Selwyn Rimmer, Phil Baskerville, Jon Herries, Stephen Harris, Awhina Thomson, Seamus Brady, Megan Stratford and Maria Cotter. Alistair Kenworthy (who is the MOH representative on the WHO working group for vaccine certification) will also be looped in. We met with Alistair and will keep connected with him as the WHO Guidelines on Vaccine Certification are being developed.
- There are a couple others working in this space as well from IT/immunisation solutions side including Shona Meyrick and Michael Dreyer.
- I think we will want to make sure we have a couple people from SS+P attend these stand ups (representing the Elimination Strategy and Vaccine space) who can then carry forward any action items from the stand ups and link with the appropriate people from SS+P.

Travel Health Pass Workshops (MOT):

- MOT has been coordinating workshops on how vaccines can be used to facilitate the resumption of international travel/border re-openings, including timing and the policy/operational settings needed to support this. These workshops are chaired by MOT, with involvement from MOH, MBIE, Customs, MFAT, DIA, and DPMC.
- The MOH people who have attended the workshop are: Stephen Harris, Megan McCoy, Awhina Thompson, Jon Herries.
- There are a series of action items that have come out of these meetings for MOH including heaps about vaccine efficacy/entry requirements and vaccine certificates, e.g. scenario planning (under what conditions and what vaccines could allow us to adjust entry requirements).
- Have a look at this document for an overview of the workshop and MOH action items:

**Travel Health Pass  
Workshops Write-u**

- s 9(2)(g)(i)
- In addition to Stephen and other Elimination Strategy people, it would be good to have someone from our vaccine space attend the workshops on behalf of MOH to set realistic expectations and provide the science and public health perspective on vaccines.

Overall, it seems like there is a fair bit of work already underway within the vaccine certification space, but we will need to coordinate and figure out who “owns” this piece of work as well as who from SS+P and Health overall attend these various meetings. We will also need to confirm MOH’s position on vaccine certification pretty soon, since other Ministries (like Finance) will be wanting to connect with Health on this topic.

Therese, Catie and Kate – any additional thoughts on next steps?

Cheers,  
Sahar

**Sahar Fanian**

**Policy Analyst | System Enablers | System, Strategy and Policy | Ministry of Health**

**From:** Nina Spence  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 April 2021 11:10 am  
**To:** Maria Cotter  
**Subject:** Vaccine Certs FW: Video of NZ COVID Tracer prototype using VCs

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Maria

Out of scope

Below are the links to a couple of helpful explainer videos about how verified certificates might work that I mentioned I'd seen and would send to you.

A company called s 9(2)(b)(ii) created a prototype (using the Covid Tracer app for example purposes) and the videos explain and show some of the technical aspects of how the verification could work, and how the info could be provided.

Our technical architect Patrick Hindmarsh notes below that he thinks it is fairly indicative of what he'd expect we could do.

Cheers  
 Nina

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**From:** Patrick Hindmarsh <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 April 2021 12:09 pm  
**To:** Selwyn Rimmer <Selwyn.Rimmer@health.govt.nz>; Nina Spence <Ninx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Shane Garelja <Shane.Garelxx@xxxxxx.xxvt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Video of NZ COVID Tracer prototype using VCs

Here's a mockup of the vaccine credential flow that was done for us. Ignoring the COVID Tracer bit, its fairly indicative of what I'd expect we could do.

s 9(2)(ba)(i)

Patrick Hindmarsh  
 Principal Architect | Data and Digital  
s 9(2)(a) | [patrick.hindmarsh@health.govt.nz](mailto:patrick.hindmarsh@health.govt.nz)  
 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington

Keep New Zealand safe with [NZ COVID Tracer](#)  
 Get your [NZ COVID Tracer QR code](#)



**From:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 13 March 2021 2:14 pm  
**To:** Alastair Kenworthy <[Alastair.Kenworthy@health.govt.nz](mailto:Alastair.Kenworthy@health.govt.nz)>; Patrick Hindmarsh

<Patrick.Hindxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.nz >; Peter Marks <xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Jon Herries <Jon.Herries@health.govt.nz>

**Subject:** Video of NZ COVID Tracer prototype using VCs

Hi guys,

Please see an example of the journey's we provided in the deck come to life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ZZuJlbD70>

We've taken the OS version of the NZ COVID tracer app and modified it to add VC functionality to support claiming and verifying.

We've also been looking at paper-based creds for the vax use case - see this video for reference

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXvWxFjHvdY>

Keen for any feedback/thoughts

Cheers and see everyone Monday!

s 9(2)(a)

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# Vaccine Credentials

Jon Herries  
Data & Digital  
26/3/2021

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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# Current NZ Situation

## Current Activities

**Covid Imms Register will eventually replace NIR**

Is a Salesforce implementation on AWS V1 in production

Will provide records of immunisation against an NHI using APIs

**We are implementing B2C Identity**

Is an Azure AD implementation Due in March

Will provide an ability for consumers to access health records

## Other Active Work

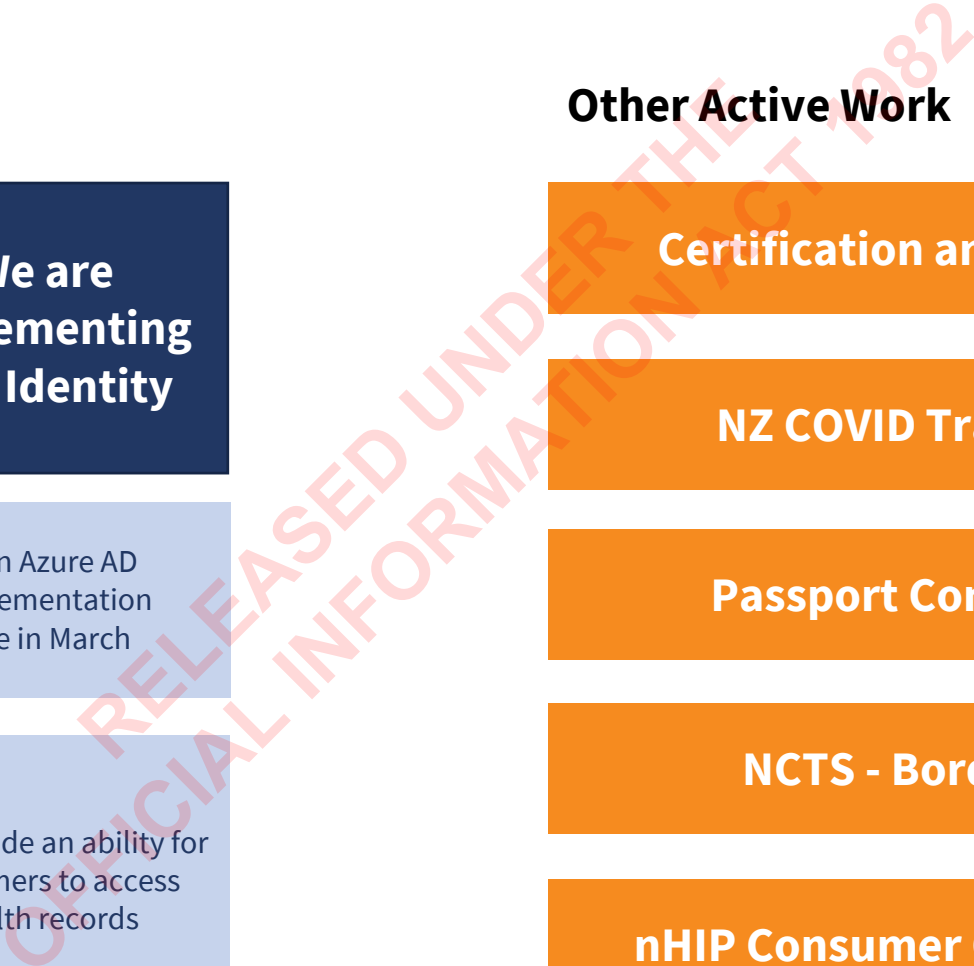
**Certification and CTIP**

**NZ COVID Tracer**

**Passport Control**

**NCTS - Border**

**nHIP Consumer Channel**



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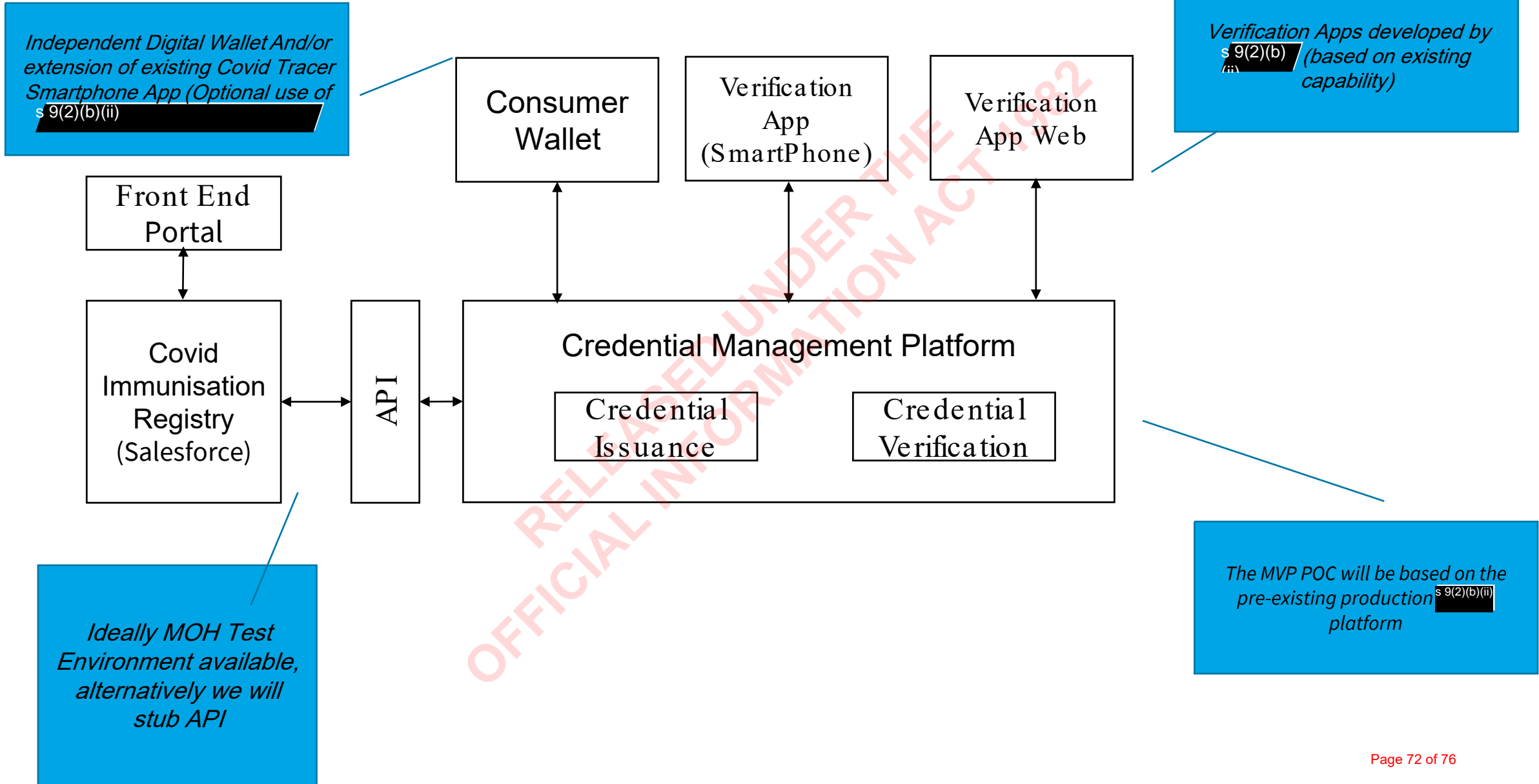
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# How will it be delivered

	Discovery	Design	Delivery	Closure
CX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify target customer testing group (based on personas identifies)</li> <li>Identify Relying party test group employers for test verification (Docks, Border Agencies etc.)</li> <li>Wallet Approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design the Customer (Issuance) and Relying Party (Verification) journey experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perform Customer Testing</li> <li>Perform Relying Party Testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document Learnings and remediation plan (backlog for pathway to production)</li> </ul>
MVP Solution	<p>Develop solution options and approaches for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccination Receipt QR code (support for low fidelity camera, printer etc.)</li> <li>Solutions for preventing duplicate claiming</li> <li>Solutions for Identity Proofing, Capture and Binding</li> <li>Interoperability and International Standards (PKI, Root of Trust etc)</li> </ul>	<p>Design the e2e solution (integration with salesforce.com covid immunization registry) – ideally in a test environment or a test stub including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>API Specs</li> <li>Vocabulary</li> <li>Integration Approach (e.g. OIDC)</li> </ul>	<p>Develop and Test the Credential Issuance Journey including approaches for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper based Journey</li> <li>Digital App based journey</li> </ul> <p>Develop Online and Offline verification solutions (Smartphone Verification App followed Web based version)</p> <p>Perform E2E Testing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document Learnings and remediation plan (backlog for pathway to production)</li> </ul>
Pathway to Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interoperability and International Standards proliferation</li> <li>Other Utility / Use Cases</li> <li>Commercial Considerations</li> <li>Production Requirements (Private Cloud etc.)</li> <li>Implementation &amp; Rollout Planning</li> <li>Operation &amp; Support Model (Non happy path/ exception flows)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption / Marketing / Education Strategy</li> <li>Relying Party Onboarding Approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope and roadmap baselined for production implementation and operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signoff on delivery plan for production and operationalisation</li> </ul>



# MVP Solution/Environment



# Questions to discuss

	Questions	
1	What information is displayed on the credential itself?	
2	What other uses do we have for VCs?	
3	How do we generate those QR codes in the vaccination process?	
4	That QR code is very dense – how do we manage this?	
5	The User Experience is critical – how do we make it simple to recognise	
6	Does the QR code invalidate itself after single use?	
7	Are these useful cases – are there others?	
8	Will the need for this go away when the world reaches herd immunity (when might this be)?	
9	How do we onboard NZers – are they interested in seeing their vaccination history?	
10	What happens when someone arrives without a recognised vaccine/system?	
11	How useful are the standards going to be (when should we start)?	
12	Do the ICAO PKI requirements add anything to this to we need to consider?	
13	Do we need other root certificates than we have at the moment?	Need to consider – NZers in a foreign domestic situation; non-NZ passport holders in NZ and in foreign domestic situation
14	What are the Identification Management Standards, how do they apply to the creation of certificates?	
15	Can we sweep up identity with second vaccine?	
16	Can we create verifiable credentials against other countries passports?	
17	What do we do with people who can't be vaccinated?	

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# Global situation

Organisation	Initiative	Standards	Consumer	Health Records	Identity	Travel Rules/Process
WHO	Smart Vaccination Certificate Consortium	X				
WHO/Estonia	Pilot of Smart Vaccination Certificate		X	X	X	
Five Eyes OECD/Spain	Human Biosecurity Group (HBG5) COVID-free mobility initiative	X				
Commons Project	CommonPass	X	X	X	X	X
IATA	IATA Travel Pass		X			X
International Chamber of Commerce	AOKpass					
Linux Foundation	COVID-19 Credentials Initiative (CCI)	X				
GoPassport Group	GoPassport					
IBM	IBM Digital Health Pass		X	X	X	
CANImmunize (a Canadian company)	CANImmunize					
Alipay and WeChat (Chinese entities)	Chinese QR code traffic-light coding system for health status administered through apps					
Healthvana (in partnership with LA County)	Healthvana					
Vaccine Credential Initiative (VCI)	Credentialising health records	X				
Singapore			X	X	X	X
Denmark			X	X	X	X
ICAO		X	X	X	X	X
EU		X				



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