



15 June 2021

Scott

by email: fyi-request-15473-423f8785@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0589

Dear Scott

Official Information Act request relating to COVID-19 response advisory groups

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 17 May 2021. You requested:

"For the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group I request, dated to 17 May:

- 1. Copies of all meeting minutes*
- 2. Copies of all advice provided to the Minister for the Covid-19 Response*

For the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group I request, dated to 17 May:

- 1. Copies of all meeting minutes*
- 2. Copies of all advice provided to the Minister for the Covid-19 Response and/or the Associate Minister for Public Health"*

On 27 May 2021, the Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet transferred your request, in part, to the Office of the Minister for COVID-19 Response, Hon Chris Hipkins, and the Associate Minister of Health, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, where it relates to advice provided to those Ministers by the Groups identified in your request.

I note that no meeting minutes have been identified. One document has been identified as relevant to your request, a letter from Sir Brian Roche to Minister Hipkins, dated 6 May 2021. This document is scheduled for proactive release on the COVID-19 website in the coming month. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act as *the information is or will soon be publicly available.*

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

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Barnes
Deputy Chief Executive,
COVID-19 Response