

Sebastian

By email: fyi-request-15656-6ba830ae@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202116597

Tēnā koe Sebastian

Partial release and decision on your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 22 November 2021 for:

*“Copies of the minutes of all meetings of
1) the CVIP Governance Group
2) the CVIP Steering Group
Dated since the beginning of April”*

Please accept the Ministry’s sincere apologies for the delay in providing you with the information requested. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 response, the Ministry have been experiencing significantly higher volumes of queries, which has resulted in significant delays to the processing of Official Information Act requests. We recognise that the Ministry had failed to comply with the statutory timeframe requirements of the Act.

Part of the information you have requested is enclosed, namely copies of the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme Governance Group meeting minutes. These are itemised at Appendix 1 of this letter along with my decisions on release. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, please note I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Please note, some of the initial Governance Group meeting minutes included a separate action tracker as an appendix at the end of the meeting minutes. This action tracker compiled actions that were already identified within the minutes of the meeting, in order to provide a quick summary of actions from previous meetings for members of the Governance Group. As the action tracker expanded over time, this action tracker became too long to include as an appendix at the end of the minutes and started to be circulated to Governance Group members prior to each meeting as a standalone document. As your request was specifically for the “minutes of all meetings”, the Ministry has not considered these action trackers to be within scope of the request

Regarding the remainder of your request, the Ministry has decided to provide you copies of meeting minutes for the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme Steering Group. This information has been prepared however, it will take us some time to finalise this information for release. The Ministry will provide this information to you by 10 June 2022.

Twelve sets of meeting minutes have been identified for this first part of the release, with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 6(a) as its release would likely prejudice the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- 9(2)(b)(ii) where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information;
- 9(2)(ba)(ii) to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely damage the public interest
- 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;

I trust this partially fulfils your request. 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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry of Health website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases.

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Koornneef
Director
National Immunisation Programme

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	April – 22 November 2021	Minutes of CVIP Governance Group meetings	Released with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6(a);• 9(2)(a);• 9(2)(b)(ii);• 9(2)(ba)(ii);• 9(2)(g)(i).