

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Harold

fyi-request-17654-3f3e9e81@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref. OIA0464

Dear Harold

Thank you for your email of 22 November 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1984 (the Act):

I would like to request copies of all reports and briefings received by Minister Hipkins on the topic of COVID-19 home quarantine (including the MIQ self-isolation pilot), and COVID-19 self- and community isolation for community cases, dated since the beginning of August.

I have identified 11 items in scope of your request in relation to the *topic of COVID-19 home quarantine (including the self-isolation pilot)*. These documents have been outlined in the document schedule below.

Some information within documents 1 to 8 have been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

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|---------------------|---|
| section 9(2)(a) | to protect the privacy of natural persons |
| section 9(2)(b)(ii) | to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information |
| section 9(2)(f)(iv) | to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials |
| 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 of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty |
| section 9(2)(g)(ii) | to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment |
| section 9(2)(h) | to maintain legal professional privilege. |

I am withholding document 8, *2122-1563 Large scale self-isolation for travellers to New Zealand – design of self-isolation model*, 10, *2122-1778: Self-Isolation Pilot Evaluation Plan*, and 11, *2122-2118 Self-Isolation Pilot Evaluation Report: arriving and transferring to self-isolation*, in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown

and officials. A summary evaluation report on the Self-Isolation Pilot will be publicly available in February.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

I am refusing your request for a copy of document 9 - *Cabinet Paper Reducing Managed Isolation stays for border arrivals from 14 to 9 or 10 days* under section 18(d) of the Act as the paper is currently being prepared to be proactively released and will soon be publicly available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

Document schedule

Documents released

#	Date	Description	Withholding Grounds
1	27 September	Cabinet Paper – Reconnecting New Zealanders with the World: Self-Isolation Pilot	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(h)
2	6 October 2021	Briefing – 2122-1284 Decisions on self-isolation pilot operational design matters	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(g)(ii), s 9(2)(h)
3	14 October 2021	Briefing – 2122-1338 Amendments to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Isolation and Quarantine) Order 2020 to give legal effect to the self-isolation pilot	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(g)(ii), s 9(2)(h)
4	22 October 2021	Briefing – 2122-1398 Final operational plan for the self-isolation pilot	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(f)(iv), s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(g)(ii)
5	29 October 2021	Cabinet oral item: Self-isolation pilot: Proceeding in Christchurch under Alert level change	Released in full
6	19 October 2021	Briefing – 2122-1416 Further advice: Operational and capacity implications of change to 9 or 10 day managed isolation for border arrivals	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(g)(ii), s 9(2)(h)
7	5 November 2021	Briefing - 2122-1661 Implications of shifting from a 14 to 7-day MIQ operating model	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(h)

Documents withheld in full

#	Date	Description	Withholding Grounds
8	10 November 2021	Briefing – 2122-1563 Large scale self-isolation for travellers to New Zealand – design of self-isolation model	s 9(2)(f)(iv)
9	18 October 2021	Cabinet Paper Reducing Managed Isolation stays for border arrivals from 14 to 9 or 10 days	s 18(d)
10	11 November 2021	Briefing – 2122-1778: Self-isolation pilot evaluation plan	s 9(2)(f)(iv)
11	7 December 2021	Briefing – 2122-2118 Self-Isolation Pilot Evaluation Report: arriving and transferring to self-isolation	s 9(2)(f)(iv)