

1 February 2022

Maxwell

By email: fyi-request-17769-e697e5ea@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H202116945

Tēnā koe Maxwell

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 30 November 2021 for:

“As I understand—in 2017 the Ministry of Health procured a new software technology platform via Deloitte (using Salesforce, Mulesoft, Amazon Web Services and other technology sets) to implement and manage the Covid-19 Immunisation Register.

Given this existing internal platform is capable of delivering the same technical requirements for the My Vaccine Pass application (including accessing data held in the Covid-19 Immunisation Register)—can I please request all the correspondence (meeting minutes, emails, memos, etc) held by the Ministry of Health or related agencies which helped inform the decision to outsource the development of the "My Vaccine Pass" application to an external third-party vendor via a tender process?”

My Vaccine Pass is a domestic vaccination certificate that allows you to access places within New Zealand that require proof of your vaccination status. The Ministry’s assessment was that parts of the platform for managing the vaccination programme was not suitable for delivering the My Vaccine Pass – specifically regarding the generation and management of verifiable credentials.

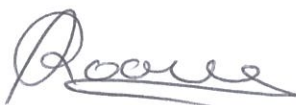
Your request for all correspondence which helped inform the decision to outsource development is refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information sought cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. I have further considered whether charging or extending the time to compile the information would enable us to respond, however, as each piece of correspondence would have to be individually reviewed before making it available, I do not believe it is in the public interest to do so.

However, eleven documents relevant to your request have been identified and are itemised in Appendix 1 of this letter and copies have been attached. Where information is withheld, this is noted on the response itself. These documents should provide significant insight into the decision to procure capability to deploy Verifiable Credentials such as the My Vaccine Pass. It includes the request for proposal for the system for digital COVID-19 Health certificates, information on vaccine certificates and passes and MATTR’s analysis on options for an international Certificate.

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 website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Koornneef
Director
National Immunisation Programme

Appendix 1: Documents for release

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	3 August 2021	Briefing: Proof of COVID-19 vaccination in the context of border reopening: scientific and public health considerations	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
2	28 August 2021	Appendix 1: COVID-19 digital vaccination update and international vaccination requirements	Released in full
3	20 September 2021	MOH Domestic Passes Discussion Decision	
4	24 September 2021	Update on the development of New Zealand's digital COVID-19 vaccination certificate	Information refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested will soon be made publicly available. This document will be publicly released by DPMC in due course.
5	22 October 2021	Vaccine Certificates Update	Released in full
6	29 October 2021	Domestic COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates: Updating and Naming for Approval	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. and: Some information withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.
7	29 October 2021	Domestic COVID-19 vaccination and test certificates: Solution approach for a "summer pass"	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.

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
8	21 September 2021	MATTR: Continuation of domestic pass discussion	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii) where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.
9	N/A	Part 1: Request for Proposals: System for Digital COVID-19 Health Certificates	Released in full
10	26 March 2021	Vaccine Credentials	
11	25 June 2021	MATTR Travel Health Pass	