



OIA25-0001

3 February 2025

Erika Whittome
fyi-request-29668-1c4ebdfe@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Erika,

Thank you for your email of 1 January 2025 requesting information relating to COVID-19 funding at Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) during the 2019/20 to 2021/22 financial periods. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

1. *In 2021 and 2022 what number of staff were terminated due to being unvaccinated for the Covid-19 disease at MPI?*

No MPI staff were terminated due to being unvaccinated for the Covid-19 disease.

2. *What budget was allocated for Covid 19 health and safety activities at MPI for the 2020/2021/2022 financial years? For example Covid advisors, Covid specialist roles, site inspections, marketing, Covid policy writers etc*

During the 2019/20 to 2021/22 financial period, there was no official budget allocated specifically for health and safety activities at MPI for COVID-19. Internal resources were managed through internal reprioritisation.

Information regarding COVID-19 related spend in 2019/20 to 2021/22 financial periods can be found in the MPI Annual Review responses; relevant details are outlined in questions 120-127:

2019/20: https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/53SCPP_EVI_103846_PP1009/ministry-for-primary-industries-responses-to-written-questions

2020/21: https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/53SCPP_EVI_116697_PP2945/ministry-for-primary-industries-responses-to-written-questions

2021/22: https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/53SCPP_EVI_127525_PP4755/ministry-for-primary-industries-responses-to-written-questions

No marketing was conducted by the Ministry for Primary Industries around COVID-19.

3. *What designation did MPI receive under section 191 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 in order to act as a regulator for health and safety matters.*

MPI does not act as a regulator under s191 of Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 in health and safety matters.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BH' with a large loop at the bottom left.

Brent Healy
Chief Financial Officer