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1 May 2026

Joshua Riley

By email: fyi-request-34196-aef4288d@requests.fyi.org.nz  
Ref: H2026080412

Tēnā koe Joshua

### **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 – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 21 March 2026. You requested:

*“The full briefing paper dated 22 December 2021 to the then-Minister for COVID-19 Response, Hon Chris Hipkins, titled: “Policy decisions required for further amendments to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order (No 7) 2021”*

*Internal reference: HR20212779*

*This document is referenced in the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned (Phase 2 report, March 2026), particularly in the section on vaccine mandates and CV TAG advice (including paragraph 23).*

*I request:*

- The complete, unredacted briefing paper (all pages, including paragraph 23 and any recommendations)*
- All attachments, annexes, appendices, or supporting documents*
- Any covering minute or emails that accompanied the briefing.”*

On 14 April 2026, the Ministry contacted you to extend the period of time available to respond to your request in accordance with section 15A of the Act, as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

The document you have requested is publicly available here: [www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2026-04/h20212779-amendments-order-booster-requirements.pdf](http://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2026-04/h20212779-amendments-order-booster-requirements.pdf). Therefore, section 18(d) of the Act applies to this part of your request.

A search of the Ministry’s systems was unable to locate the covering email and/or memo that accompanied the briefing. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as despite reasonable efforts to locate it, the requested information cannot be found.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz).

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](mailto: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](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests)

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Old', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrew Old  
**Deputy Director-General**  
Public Health Agency and Mental Health Group  
Te Pūtahi Tūmatanui ā-Hauora ā-Hinengaro