



16 July 2026

[OIA309]

Penny Claridge

fyi-request-34797-16d74416@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Penny Claridge

Thank you for your email of 29 May 2026 to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). On 17 June 2026 the following parts of your request were transferred from DPMC to this Office under section 14(b) of the OIA for response:

“Any papers, briefings, agendas, or records of decisions from the Cabinet National Security Committee or any Cabinet committee that address the implications of the New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement for New Zealand's national security or biosecurity, specifically including any discussion of pharmaceutical supply chain resilience or emergency vaccine procurement, during the period 1 January 2024 to 26 April 2026.”

Any DPMC or Cabinet records that address New Zealand's obligations or commitments under GAVI's co-financing or support agreements, and whether those commitments were considered during NZ-India FTA negotiations, during the period 1 January 2024 to 26 April 2026.”

Response to your request

You may wish to refer to the publicly available National Interest Analysis (pages 45-46), here: www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/NZ-India-FTA/NZ-India-FTA-National-Interest-Analysis-NIA.pdf.

The current operative legal framework, including any Cabinet decisions, Director-General of Health directions, or emergency health legislation provisions, that would govern vaccine procurement and authorisation in New Zealand in the event of a declared Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization specifically:

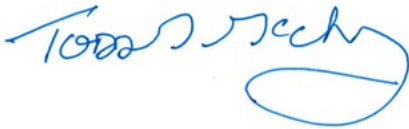
- a. *The process by which the Director-General of Health can authorise emergency vaccine procurement outside normal Pharmac competitive tender processes.*

The Cabinet paper *New Zealand-India FTA: Approval of Final Outcomes and Approval to Sign* which contains pharmaceutical and medical device annexes will be published on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website as part of that agency's proactive release of formal advice relating to the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement. This will be available via the following link: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/free-trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements-concluded-but-not-in-force/new-zealand-india-free-trade-agreement/resources

There is no information any material taken to Cabinet by this Office relating to the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement that reference's GAVI's co-financing or support agreements. Therefore that part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Todd McClay', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment