



11 May 2020

[REDACTED]

Reference: OIA-2019/20-0492

Dear [REDACTED]

### Official Information Act request regarding COVID-19 advisory reports

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 1 May 2020 by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and Ministry of Health (MoH). You requested:

*"I am aware of a small number of medical advisory reports on the Ministry of Health website that relate to the Covid-19 strategy and decision making of the Government. It seems to me that the available medical information is incomplete and that important non-medical information is simply not available. If it is publicly available then please point me to it.*

*I request access Under the Official Information Act to the input advisory reports that were used by the Government during February, March and April to make decisions on its approach to managing Covid-19 in New Zealand. I do not know of the specific documents as I have no line of sight as to what the documents are or how they were used. I request access to the reports that cover economic, logistical and supply side issues as well as medical matters. Documents providing advice on border management is also requested."*

I believe most of the information you have requested is now publicly available on the COVID-19 website at the following address: [covid19.govt.nz/resources/key-documents-and-legislation/proactive-release](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/resources/key-documents-and-legislation/proactive-release). The material published at this address covers key advice and Cabinet material prepared up to 17 April 2020. Information prepared after 17 April 2020 is planned for a later release. Accordingly, I am formally refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information you requested is, or will soon be, publicly available.

If you would like to request additional information about a specific aspect as a result of reviewing the material contained in the link above, please feel free to make a further request under the Act to the relevant Minister, or relevant Government agency.

I note your follow up email of 11 May 2020, addressed primarily to the Ministry of Health, implied you had intended to make your original request of 1 May 2020 to the Prime Minister, and not DPMC (a government department). As your request of 1 May 2020 was sent to DPMC, we are responding rather than the Prime Minister or her office. If you intended your request to be made to the Prime Minister, I would encourage you to forward your request to [j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz).

Alternatively, if you would like DPMC to transfer your request to the Prime Minister, please advise accordingly by the close of 13 May 2020, in order to allow DPMC to meet the statutory transfer timeframe outlined in the Act.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on DPMC's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward  
**Executive Director, Strategy, Governance and Engagement**