



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

2 May 2022

[REDACTED]

Ref: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request: COVID-19 Lapel Pins

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 13 April 2022. You requested:

“This is a request for Official Information under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to lapel pins.

We request the following information:

- * The total number of essential staff who will receive lapel pins for their COVID-19 response.*
- * Who is eligible for the lapel awards?*
- * A total cost breakdown, including the budgeted costs for the lapel pin awards, including but not limited to:*
 - * Design costs*
 - * Manufacturing costs*
 - * Logistical costs*
 - * Administrative costs*
 - * And other costs associated with making the lapels.”*

On 10 March 2022, the Prime Minister announced that the Government is establishing an award to recognise people who have contributed to New Zealand’s COVID-19 response. You can read the Prime Minister’s press release here: [New award recognises MIQ staff | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

The establishment of the award is being led by the Cabinet Office’s Honours Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. As noted in the Prime Minister’s press release, officials are working on design, eligibility and criteria. More details will become available as this work progresses.

The total number of recipients of the award will be determined as the project is fully scoped. MIQ staff will be the first recipients of the award and recognition will be extended to other groups who have contributed to New Zealand’s COVID-19 response. I am otherwise withholding the part of your request concerning eligibility under section 9(2)(f)(iv) to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials.

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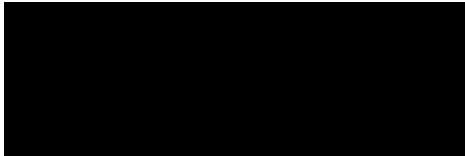
www.dpmc.govt.nz

Funding for the award is currently subject to Budget processes. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this time. I am therefore withholding this information under section 9(2)(f)(iv) to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials, and section 9(2)(i) to enable a public service agency to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

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 the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet'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.

Nāku noa, nā



Clerk of the Executive Council