



29 August 2022



Ref: OIA-2021/22-1564

Dear 

Official Information Act request for meeting minutes and agendas from the Covid-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group and the Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 1 August 2022. You requested:

“- All meeting minutes and agendas from the Covid-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group since November 25, 2021

- All meeting minutes and agendas from the Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group since November 25, 2021”

All meeting minutes and agendas from the Covid-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group since November 25, 2021

The requested meeting minutes and agendas from the Covid-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group are currently being prepared for proactive release. Accordingly, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act – that the information requested will soon be publicly available.

All meeting minutes and agendas from the Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group since November 25, 2021

I have decided to release the agendas listed below, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act, to prevent improper pressure or harassment.

Item	Date	Document Description/Subject
1.	1 December 2021	2021-12-01 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
2.	15 December 2021	2021-12-15 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
3.	26 January 2022	2022-01-26 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
4.	9 February 2022	2022-02-09 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
5.	23 February 2022	2022-02-23 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
6.	9 March 2022	2022-03-09 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

7.	23 March 2022	2022-03-23 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
8.	20 April 2022	2022-04-20 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
9.	4 May 2022	2022-05-04 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
10.	18 May 2022	2022-05-18 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
11.	15 June 2022	2022-06-15 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
12.	29 June 2022	2022-06-29 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group
13.	27 July 2022	2022-07-27 Agenda: Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

No minutes were taken from the Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group meetings. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

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.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Fairhall
Deputy Chief Executive
COVID-19 Response

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 1/12/2021

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 1 December 2021

Time 10:00 – 12:00

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

10.00 AM Meeting Opens

1. Brief discussion of background summaries supported by attached document

- (a) Trends in other countries and lessons for New Zealand (Philip Hill)
- (b) Pandemic situation in Pacific Island nations (Ella Iosua)
- (c) Vaccine issues (Nikki Turner)
- (d) Testing (David Murdoch)
- (e) New antiviral drugs (Maia Brewerton)
- (f) Evolution of the virus (David Skegg)
- (g) Persistence of immunity (David Murdoch)

2. Consideration of likely scenarios New Zealand may encounter over the next year, in our ongoing COVID-19 response

12.00 Meeting Close

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 15/12/2021

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 15 December 2021

Time 10:00 – 11:30

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

10.00 AM Meeting opens

1. Discussion with Rodney Jones and Michael Duddin

2. Issues arising from feedback on draft report for Ministers (previously circulated)

3. Any other business

11.30 Meeting close

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 26/01/2022

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 26 January 2022

Time 10:15 – 11:45

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

10.15 AM Opening remarks from the Chair

10.30 AM Presentation from the DPMC Policy Advisory Group, on preparations for Omicron

11.00 AM Discussion with Dr Ashley Bloomfield and Dr Ian Town, on the planning of the Ministry of Health for dealing with Omicron

11.45 AM Meeting close

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 09/02/2022

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 9 February 2022

Time 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

10.00 AM Presentation from Rodney Jones: International Trends and Implications for New Zealand

10.45 AM Group Discussion on the Plans for Re-opening

11.15AM Presentation from Shaun Hendy: Potential Impact of the Omicron Outbreak in New Zealand

12.00 PM Meeting close

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 23/02/2022

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 23 February 2022

Time 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

10.00 AM: Professor Tony Blakely *supported by background paper*

10.45 AM: Dr Jemma Geoghegan

11.15AM: Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

12.00 PM: Meeting close

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 09/03/2022

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 9 March 2022

Time 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

9.00 AM: Minister Verrall

9.45 AM: Group Discussion about Vaccine Mandates and Related Matters *supported by paper*

10.30 AM: Review of the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF) and Post-Peak Planning
supported by paper

11.00 AM: Meeting Close

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 23/03/2022

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 23 March 2022

Time 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

10.00 AM: Discussion of strategies for controlling COVID-19, after the Omicron peak

12.00 PM: Meeting Close

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 20/04/2021

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 20 April 2022

Time 10:00 AM – 12.00 PM

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

10.00 AM Meeting opens

1. Planned Review of Advisory Committee Arrangements *James Correia to report*

2. Changes of Personnel at DPMC

3. Discussion of Draft Paper from the Ministry of Health, on Planning for Variants *supported by paper*

4. General Discussion of Pandemic Situation

12.00 PM Meeting closes

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 4/05/2022

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 4 May 2022

Time 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Update on new variants, including BA.4

COVID-19 minimisation and protection strategy (*Attachments #1 and #2*)

MBIE presentation on the National Quarantine Capability (10.30am) (*Attachment from MBIE*)

Attendees: Andrew Milne – Deputy Secretary MIQ, Jules Harrison-Annear – Strategy Director, MIQ, Andrew Burns – Programme Director, NQC, John Buick-Constable – Infrastructure Director, MIQ, Paul Keymer – Future Strategy Manager, MIQ, Ann-Maree Beard – Strategic Advisor

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 18/05/2022

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 18 May 2022

Time 10:00 AM

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Apologies Nikki Turner

Item 1: Discussion with DPMC Policy team about future options for the COVID-19 Protection Framework

Attendees: Kay Baxter – Policy Manager DPMC, Alice Hume – Policy Manager DPMC, Ivan Luketina – Principal Policy Advisor DPMC

Item 2: Health Variants Plan

Attendees: Ian Town – Chief Science Advisor MoH

Item 3: Progress of the epidemic in New Zealand

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 15/06/2022

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 15 June 2022

Time 10:00 AM

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

10.00AM Meeting opens

10.00AM: Committee discussion about progress of the pandemic and the NZ response

10.30AM: Mortality from COVID-19 and related issues

Attendees: Ian Town – Chief Science Advisor MoH, Professor Patricia Priest, Kay Baxter – Policy Manager DPMC, Ivan Luketina – Principal Policy Advisor DPMC

11.15AM: Discussion about future role and membership of the committee

12.00PM Meeting closes

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

Date 29/06/2022

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement.

Meeting date Wednesday 29 June 2022

Time 10:15 AM

Venue Join Zoom Meeting

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Apologies Maia Brewerton

10.15AM: Meeting opens (please note the later start time)

10.30AM: Ministry of Health and colleagues, to discuss mortality from COVID-19 (paper attached)

Attendees: Ian Town – Chief Science Advisor MoH, Andrew Old – Incoming Deputy Director General of the Public Health Agency, Martin Thomas – Health Quality & Safety Commission, Robyn Carey – Chief Medical Officer MoH

11.15AM: MBIE representatives, to discuss National Quarantine Capability (paper attached)

Attendees: Julies Harrison-Annear – Strategy Director MIQ, Andrew Milne, Andrew Burns, John Buick-Constable, Paul Keymer, Gary Choromanski

11.45AM: General business

12.00PM: Meeting closes

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Agenda

27 July 2022

This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group and must be treated in confidence.

Meeting date	Wednesday 27 July 2022
Time	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Venue	s9(2)(g)(ii)
Apologies	Matire Harwood

10:00AM: Welcome from the Chair and update on the terms of reference

10:15AM: Update on the outbreak and modelling predictions
Attendees: Jeremy Greenbrook-Held (DPMC)

10:45AM: Update on the mortality and hospitalisation risk data progress and the Waikato Study

11:15AM: Open discussion on key issues

11:45AM: General business

12:00PM: Meeting closes