



21 October 2024

[Redacted]
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Ref: OIA-2024/25-0326

Dear [Redacted]

Official Information Act request relating to Covid-19 documents

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 8 October 2024. You requested:

"I request information from two documents that were proactively released on 26 November 2021. The information I request was redacted at the time and concerned the Government's response to the Auckland lockdown. As the Covid crisis has passed, there now appears to be no need to keep this information redacted and my interest in it is as a researcher and student of history. The first document is a briefing dated 19 August 2021 COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order (No 9) Amendment Order (No 2) 2021 - Email Brief I request all the information under the heading "New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990". The second document is a Cabinet paper and minute dated 23 August 2021 COVID-19 Response: 23 August Review of Alert Level Settings [CAB-21-MIN-0336]. I request all the information under the heading "Human Rights"."

The parts of the documentation you have requested were withheld under section 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege. I have considered if this information can now be released and determined the grounds for withholding this remain valid. Accordingly, I am refusing your request under section 18(a) that by virtue of section 9(2)(h) the information should continue to be withheld.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

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

[Redacted Signature]

Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement