



14 August 2020

[Redacted]

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0049

Dear [Redacted]

Official Information Act request relating to the military's involvement in managed isolation centres

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 28 July 2020. You requested:

"Please advise the scope and details of planning that went into the appointing of the Military to replace the Health Department in running COVID 19 Isolation centres."

The Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, wanted the benefits of military precision and rigour brought to every aspect of the quarantine and isolation process. Officials advised the Prime Minister of the option of expanding Air Commodore Darryn Webb's role to meet this requirement.

Air Commodore Webb's role was expanded from leading quarantine logistics to having end-to-end responsibility for New Zealand's managed isolation and quarantine facilities.

The decision to expand the role was based on verbal advice, and as such, no documents are held in terms of planning for this appointment.

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]

John Ombler
**Deputy Chief Executive,
All-of-Government Response Group**