



## Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of Minister of Health, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall:

### **COVID-19 Briefings November 2022**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** 11112022 COVID-19 Consultation Practices and Requirements

**Title of paper:** 14112022 DPMC COVID-19 Transition - Strategy and Policy Coordination

**Title of paper:** 23112022 Government Appointments - COVID-19 Response and Associate Minister of Health

**Title of paper:** 25112022 Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet: COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund Quarter 1 report

**Title of paper:** 30112022 Future of the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

**Title of paper:** 30112022 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet: Annual Review Pre-Hearing Questionnaire 2021 / 22 - COVID-19 Response portfolio

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

#### **Key to redaction codes:**

- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals; and
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials.



## Coversheet

### Briefing: Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet: COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund Quarter 1 report

Date:	25/11/2022	Report No:	DPMC-2022/23-396
		Security Level:	<del>IN-CONFIDENCE</del>
		Priority level:	[Medium]

	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall Minister for COVID-19 Response	agree to sign and send the attached letter to the Minister of Finance	9/12/2022

Name	Position	Telephone		1 <sup>st</sup> Contact
Katrina Casey	Deputy Chief Executive, COVID-19 Group	+64 4 495 6715	s9(2)(a)	
Julie Knauf	Chief of Staff, COVID-19 Group	s9(2)(a)	N/A	✓

#### Minister's Office

Status:

Signed

Withdrawn

Comment for agency

Attachments: Yes

# Briefing

## Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet: COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund Quarter 1 report

To: Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Minister for COVID-19 Response

Date	25/11/2022	Security Level	<del>[IN-CONFIDENCE]</del>
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### Purpose

To provide a quarterly report on the progress of funding allocated to Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) for your approval. This briefing also provides a letter for you to sign and send to the Minister of Finance.

### Recommendations

We recommend you:

1. **review and approve** the CRRF report in relation to the Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet appropriation for your COVID-19 Response portfolio (**Attachment A**); **YES / NO**
2. **sign and send** the letter to the Minister of Finance (**Attachment B**). **YES / NO**

  
Katrina Casey  
Deputy Chief Executive  
COVID-19 Group  
25/11/2022

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Minister for COVID-19 Response  
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## Background

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1. Within Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC), the COVID-19 Response portfolio received funding through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) for the establishment of a business group within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to lead and coordinate the all-of-government COVID-19 response effort.
2. Funding has been provided to ensure a coordinated all-of-government response to COVID-19 until June 2023.
3. Cabinet directed departments receiving CRRF funding to provide a quarterly report to the Treasury detailing the following information:
  - how much has been spent;
  - progress against key milestones; and
  - forecast future expenditure on these initiatives or programmes.
4. In addition, Cabinet also directed officials from DPMC to ensure contracts engaged to fulfil this initiative be structured in a way that enables them to be terminated quickly and funding returned to the Crown [CAB-21-MIN-0487].
5. A report has been developed to address these Cabinet directives.
6. Responsibility for the vaccine campaign transferred to Te Whatu Ora on 1 July 2022. All other contracts are scheduled for novation to key agencies during Quarter 2 2022/23 in accordance with decisions by responsible Ministers in October 2022.

## Quarter 1 2022/23 update

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7. The Quarter 1 CRRF report for funding appropriated within Vote PMC is provided for your approval (**Attachment A**).
8. It sets out that:
  - from 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022, \$8.433 million has been spent from Vote PMC;
  - 58% of New Zealanders said they had access to all the information they want and need about COVID-19.
9. Following a tender process, DPMC entered into new contracts with Clemenger BBDO Limited and OMD New Zealand Limited for the Unite Against COVID-19 campaign. The Quarter 1 report for the 2022/23 year reflects these contract arrangements.

## Quarter 2 2022/23 focus

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10. DPMC will focus on transfer of responsibilities and funding to agencies as agreed by responsible Ministers.



## Next steps

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11. If you agree with the attached report (**Attachment A**), we ask that you sign and send the letter (**Attachment B**) and the report to the Minister of Finance.

Attachments:	Title	Security classification
<b>Attachment A:</b>	2022/23 CRRF funding: Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet Quarter 1 report	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act
<b>Attachment B:</b>	Letter to the Minister of Finance	<del>IN-CONFIDENCE</del>

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## Attachment B

Letter to the Minister of Finance

Proactively Released

# Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Minister for COVID-19 Response  
Minister of Research, Science and Innovation  
Minister for Seniors  
Associate Minister of Health



Hon Grant Robertson  
Minister of Finance  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Tēnā koe Minister Robertson

## COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund

As requested as part of the Budget 22 process attached, as Annex A, is a progress report on spending to date of funding allocated in this portfolio from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) within Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC).

Please note that reporting on vaccine campaign expenditure for the 2022/23 year is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health as part of its CRRF reporting, while delivery of the campaign is carried out by Te Whatu Ora.

Following agreement by responsible Ministers, all other contracts and advertising responsibilities will transfer to other agencies, along with associated CRRF funding, during Quarter 2 2022/23. This leaves a small residual function within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Nāku noa, nā

**Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall**  
**Minister for COVID-19 Response**