



29 November 2022

[Redacted]

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0332

Dear [Redacted]

**Official Information Act request regarding reasoning for COVID-19 restrictions**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, partially transferred from Te Whatu Ora on 14 November 2022. You requested:

*"What was the reason for locking down society until the threshold of 90% vaccination was achieved if the Vaccine was not proven to reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus?"*

I am interpreting your question to be about the transition from the COVID-19 Alert Levels to the COVID-19 Protection Framework (the Framework) in December 2021. Before the Framework was put in place, Cabinet removed the 90% vaccination targets that were set to transition the country to the Framework. More information regarding this decision by Cabinet can be found in the Cabinet Paper *Implementing the COVID-19 Framework* which is available on the Unite Against COVID-19 (UAC) website:

[COVID-19-Implementing-the-COVID-19-Protection-Framework.pdf \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)

For further information regarding the Framework and decision-making, please refer to documents published on the *Alert Level System and COVID-19 Protection Framework* page on the UAC website:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/about-our-covid-19-response/proactive-releases/alert-levels-and-restrictions/>

Accordingly, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response may 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]

Katrina Casey  
Deputy Chief Executive  
COVID-19 Group