



7 February 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0457

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request for funding allocated to COVID-19 or COVID-19 Vaccine Monitoring/Advisory Boards

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 22 December 2022.

You have requested:

“Please could you provide information to show funding allocated by Ministry of Health or through any other public funds to:

[...]

C) any other Covid or Covid vaccine monitoring or advisory boards. Please also provide any information to show how this funding is allocated, including what is allocated to the board members and what is allocated towards other costs.”

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) has interpreted your request to refer to the following advisory groups and panel: the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group (SPHAG); the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group (CRIAG); and the COVID-19 Community Panel. The SPHAG and CRIAG are Independent Ministerial Advisory Groups and DPMC provided the Secretariat support.

With regards to the three advisory groups, I have been advised that all costs for the SPHAG were recovered from the Ministry of Health (MOH) under a memorandum of understanding signed 3 October 2021. This meant that there was no net cost to DPMC for SPHAG. I can also advise that DPMC paid all the costs associated with the CRIAG.

Please note that there were no fees paid by DPMC for the COVID-19 Community Panel, as it was made up of unpaid volunteers in 2021 and 2022. DPMC's Gift Register (under its Hospitality, Koha, Gifts and Entertainment Policy) records Prezzy Cards valued at \$500 gifted to members on 12/01/2022 and 30/06/2022, totalling \$8,500.

The expenditure by the DPMC on the two advisory groups totalled \$367,140 from March 2020 to 30 December 2022. Of the total, \$130,270 was recovered from MOH for the costs of the SPHAG. There are no expected costs to DPMC after 31 December 2022. The Terms of

Reference concluded for the CRIAG on 30 June 2022 and concluded for the SPHAG on 31 December 2022.

Please find below a breakdown of the costs by financial year, including a breakdown of the costs recovered from MOH.

Costs broken down by advisory group				
Year	Group	Costs (\$)	Total (\$)	Grand Total (\$)
2020/2021	CRIAG	14,874	38,849	367,140
	SPHAG	23,975		
2021/2022	CRIAG	136,312	309,831	
	SPHAG	173,519		
2022/2023	CRIAG	456	18,460	
	SPHAG	18,004		

Recovered Costs from MOH			
Year	Group	Costs (\$)	Grand Total (\$)
2020/2021	SPHAG	Not applicable before 3 Oct 2021	130,270
2021/2022	SPHAG	112,266	
2022/2023	SPHAG	18,004	

Further information on the COVID-19 All of Government Response appropriation and reporting can be found in the DPMC Annual Reports, and Annual Reviews, which are publicly available. I have listed the relevant links in the table below for ease of reference.

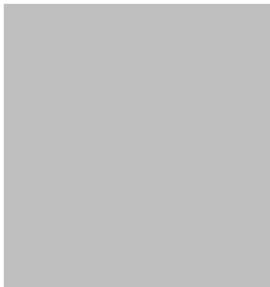
Date	Title	Website Address
21 Dec 2020	Annual Report 2020	https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/annual-report-2020
N.A.	2019/2020 Annual Review of DPMC	https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/all?custom=FINS_104457
21 Oct 2021	Annual Report 2021	https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/annual-report-2021
N.A.	2020/2021 Annual Review of DPMC	https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/all?custom=FINS_116496
17 Oct 2022	Annual Report 2022	https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/annual-report-2022

I also draw your attention to the 2021/22 Annual Review of DPMC, which will soon be publicly available on Parliament's website, at: www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/business-before-committees/document/FINS_130099/202122-annual-review-of-the-department-of-the-prime-minister.

Of relevance to your request, I draw your attention to the advice provided to the Minister by CRIAG and SPHAG which is publicly available on the DPMC website here: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/node/3412/>.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. 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



Katrina Casey
Deputy Chief Executive, COVID-19 Group