



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

30 March 2023



Ref: OIA-2022/23-0646

Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request: COVID-19 Recognition Award

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 9 March 2023. You requested:

- o How much is the estimated cost of the Covid-19 Recognition Award?*
- o How much of the total budget goes towards to pin and certificate (the awards)?*
- o How many positions were created to accommodate the organisation and distribution of the Covid-19 Recognition Award?*
- o Over what timeframe are the awards distributed?*
- o How many awards are you expected to distribute? And to whom (by category)?*

I will answer each of your questions in turn.

How much is the estimated cost of the Covid-19 Recognition Award?

The Government has established an award – the COVID-19 Response Recognition Award – to recognise groups of frontline workers who have contributed to New Zealand’s COVID-19 response. The total amount appropriated by the Government at Budget 2022 for this project was \$5.076M. However, the full amount is unlikely to be used. The total estimated cost is forecast to be \$1.5M.

How much of the total budget goes towards to pin and certificate (the awards)?

The original budget for the pins and certificates for the COVID-19 Response Recognition Award was \$3.75M. The current forecast is now \$1M. The final spend will depend on the number of award items given.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

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How many positions were created to accommodate the organisation and distribution of the Covid-19 Recognition Award?

The project has been led by the Cabinet Office in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Two fixed-term positions, a project manager, and a senior project advisor, were created to support this work. The project manager (12 months fixed-term) commenced work on 1 June 2022. The senior project advisor (8.5 months fixed-term) commenced work on 17 August 2022.

Over what timeframe are the awards distributed?

The first awards were distributed in early January 2023. The last awards are expected to be distributed by May 2023.

How many awards are you expected to distribute? And to whom (by category)

The COVID-19 Response Recognition Award is for sustained and significant service in the following areas:

- Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQ);
- International Border workforce;
- COVID-19 Testing workforce;
- COVID-19 Contact Tracing workforce;
- Doctors, Nurses, and healthcare staff caring for patients with COVID-19;
- COVID-19 Vaccination workforce.

The final number of award recipients is still to be determined. More information will be available at the completion of the project.

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.

Nāku noa, nā,



Rachel Hayward
Clerk of the Executive Council