



18 July 2023



Ref: OIA-2022/23-1040

Dear

Official Information Act request relating to Groups related to COVID-19 advice

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 21 June 2023.
You requested:

“Covid-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group

The date the group first convened and the date of their final meeting.

The chairperson for the Group

Membership of the Group

The group purpose and key areas of focus

Any final report or final interim report.

Strategic Covid-19 Strategic Public Health Advisory Group

The date the group first convened and the date of their final meeting.

The chairperson for the Group

Membership of the Group

The group purpose and key areas of focus

Any final report or final interim report”

Covid-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group

The Covid-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group was first convened on 2 November 2022. The last meeting was held on 30 June 2022. You can read the meeting notes for this meeting at www.dPMC.govt.nz/publications/covid-19-independent-advisory-groups

The members of the group were Sir Brian Roche (Chair), Dr Dale Bramley, Dr Debbie Ryan, Professor Phillip Hill, and Rob Fyfe. The purpose of the group was to provide advice to the Minister for COVID-19 Response on specific areas of the response where improvements could be made with the benefit of alternative and independent perspectives.

The key focus areas for the group included considering COVID-19 response efforts across the Government’s system-wide response, such as border, managed isolation and quarantine, and public health response. In addition, the group gave an independent perspective on the robustness of the COVID-19 response system and opportunities for continuous improvement on specific aspects of the response.

You can read the most recent report at online at [June 2021 Report of the Progress Against Recommendations A3 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](http://June 2021 Report of the Progress Against Recommendations A3 (covid19.govt.nz)).

There was no final report, or final interim report from this group.

The Strategic Covid-19 Strategic Public Health Advisory Group

The Strategic Covid-19 Strategic Public Health Advisory Group was first convened on 31 March 2021, and the final meeting was held 14 December 2022.

The chair of the group was Professor Nikki Turner, and the members of the group were Professor David Murdoch, Dr Ella Iosua, Dr Maia Brewerton, Professor Patricia Priest, and Associate Professor Matire Harwood.

The group's purpose was to provide independent advice on the COVID-19 response, informed by their expertise in epidemiology, infectious diseases, public health, and modelling. The key areas of focus of the group were to have a particular regard to public health protections and border and community surveillance settings, within the context of the risk of new variants, and to reduce inequitable outcomes for vulnerable populations.

You can read more at [COVID-19 Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group Terms of Reference \(covid19.govt.nz\)](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/strategic-public-health-advisory-group/terms-of-reference)

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

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward
**Executive Director,
Strategy, Governance and Engagement**