



18 August 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2023/24-0046

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to follow up to request for a copy of a risk assessment of face coverings

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 20 July 2023. You requested:

"The document you have provided is an imposter..."

*Paragraph 15 states,
"DPMC officials completed a face covering risk assessment by categorising activities and places by the level of risk of spread of COVID-19. This included consideration of the practicality of wearing a face covering in different settings and what other public health measures are in place at Alert Level 2 (particularly physical distancing and limits on attendees). On the basis of this advice, I recommend mandating the use of face coverings for all people (staff and customers) over the age of 12 at Alert Levels 2 or higher, in:..."*

That document includes a table that is different to what you have provided and is also clearly not a risk assessment as claimed. It is a table outlining recommendations, maybe or maybe not based on a risk assessment as referred to in para 15.

The original table is dated 2c9cr0w2bc 2021-09-23 08:35:05

The document provided is an imposter. It is labelled as Attachment B, not "Table: Proposed settings for mandatory face coverings and record keeping for contact tracing, as at 16 July 2021" as in the original document. It has some similarities but is obviously a document unrelated to the request. Your letter also refers to 30 June 2023 which is after the date I requested the copy.

The wording "DPMC officials completed a face covering risk assessment by categorising activities and places by the level of risk of spread of COVID-19" reads that the table in the document was the final stage of a process resulting in recommendations AFTER the risk assessment itself had been undertaken.

To simplify the ability of the DPMC staff to find the risk assessment I am asking for, can you please provide me with two documents.

- 1. The Risk Assessment that informed the recommended mandate as outlined in para 15, and*
- 2. The full document, including all attachments, that relate to 'Attachment B.'*

I do not want any more imposter documents, nor a table from a larger document. I want the Risk Assessment said to have been undertaken by the DPMC.

If, of course, no such risk assessment document exists, then please be honest and say so.”

The risk assessment you have requested is available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) website. You can find it here:

www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/JU01-02072021-Mandatory-Record-Keeping-for-Contact-Tracing-Purposes-and-Face-Coverings.pdf

Accordingly, your request is declined under section 18(d) of the Act because the information 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 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.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement