



22 July 2025



Ref: OIA-2024/25-1007

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to health waiting time target referenced in media article

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 26 June 2025. You requested (numbering added):

"[1] a copy of the evidence referred to in this paragraph from a [Herald article](#), I've already requested it from Treasury, so I'm interested in the information held by DPMC: 'Treasury officials said there was evidence the system was prioritising people who had only just been put onto the waitlist over people who had been waiting far longer than four months so that the target might be hit. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet had also raised concerns and was looking into the issue, the paper said.'

[2] I also request copies of all information held by DPMC around the potential gaming of current health targets.

Where a document that falls under scope of this request cannot be released, please supply a summary of that document's contents.

Where any document falls under the scope of this request, please release it in full, including sections which might otherwise be considered out of scope."

On 17 July 2025, we notified you that part of your request had been transferred to Health NZ for response and they will respond to you directly. The present response covers the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) material relevant to your request.

In response to Part [1] of your request, the evidence referred to in the paragraph of the NZ Herald article dated 16 June 2025 (linked in your request) was from a draft DPMC Briefing to the Prime Minister for the quarter ending 31 December 2024. I have decided to withhold the relevant part of that draft briefing under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

In relation to Part [2] of your request, please find attached the following document:

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
Item 1	9/12/2024	Email: <i>Meeting Action Notes: Targets 1 & 2 Implementation Planning</i>	Release, some information withheld under: s9(2)(a).

As noted in the table above, and on the documents released to you, some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of individuals. A small amount of information is not in scope of your request and is marked accordingly.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

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 DPMC'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,



Janine Smith
**Deputy Chief Executive
Policy**

From: [Maari Porter \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Duncan Bliss](#); [Kirsten Stephenson](#); [Ben McBride \[DPMC\]](#); [Amy Russell \[TSY\]](#); [Shane Hamill \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [Simon Medcalf](#); [Dale Bramley](#)
Subject: Meeting Action Notes: Targets 1 & 2 Implementation Planning
Date: Monday, 9 December 2024 11:58:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

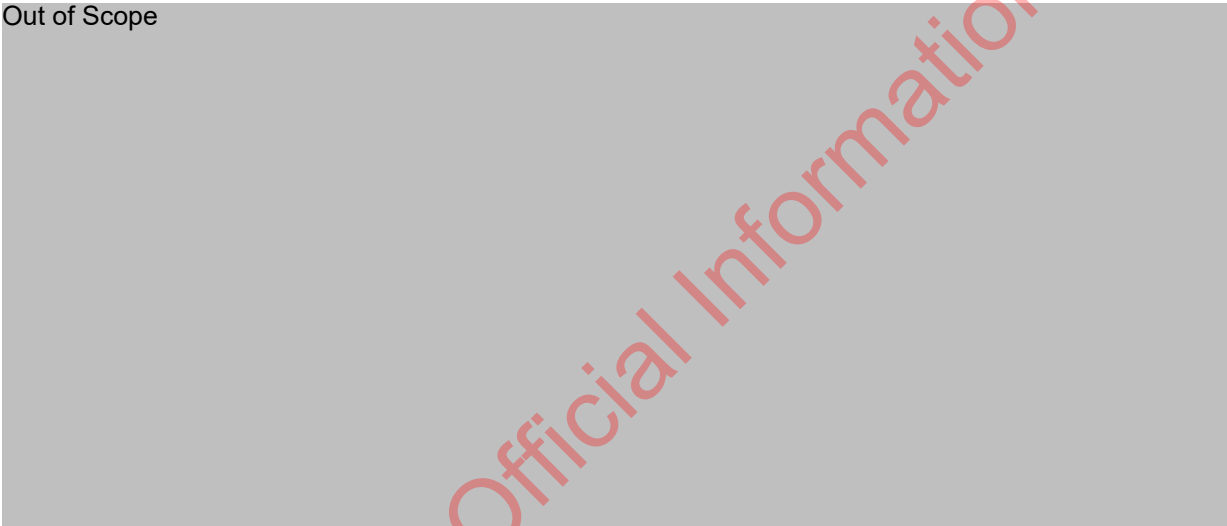
IN-CONFIDENCE UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora koutou,

Thank you for your meeting last week on Delivery Planning, mitigating unintended consequences/gaming and Auditor General audit.


We discussed the following and agreed actions per below:

Out of Scope



- **Mitigating unintended consequences and gaming** was discussed. Ministry/Te Whatu Ora have, with the support of HQSC, developed a set of balancing measures. We agreed having balancing measures was important and good to see the agencies get ahead of this area. In addition, the Delivery Unit recommended, based on international and previous NZ experience and evidence, for Ministry/Te Whatu Ora to consider bringing in HQSC to provide an active approach (in addition to measures) through an independent assurance/assessment of aspects of the Targets (where gaming/unintended consequences has been a feature either domestically or overseas) that could be provided to those with oversight of the targets in the Ministry/Te Whatu Ora. To be clear, the Delivery Unit just needs assurance that there is a process in place, it is for the agencies to manage and monitor. **Action:** Ministry/Te Whatu Ora agreed to consider and talk with Richard Hamblin about an active assurance role.

Out of Scope



Please let me know if I've missed or mis-represented anything.

With thanks,
Maari

Maari Porter (*she/her*)
Chief Advisor
Delivery Unit
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M: s9(2)(a)

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982