



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

12 September 2025

[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0158

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Official Information Act request: Covid 19 service recognition**

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 30 August 2025. You requested:

*Pertaining to this document:*

*<https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-06/pr-covid-19-briefings-mar-jun22.pdf>*

*Question 31 page 39*

*Budget 2022 includes new funding for the following new services, functions or outputs:*

*\*Covid 19 SERVICE RECOGNITION - to allow the government to recognise the contribution of certain New Zealanders to the Covid 19 response.*

*Questions:*

*\*please provide details of all recipients of this allocated \$3.776 million fund, including name, payments, and rationale for their selection as recipients of payment.*

*\*were these payments funded by tax payer funds?*

*\*please provide details as to how the recipients were selected*

*\*please provide all available emails, memo's, messages and all other correspondence relating to the selection of the recipients, and their payments*

### **Response to your request**

The Government established the COVID-19 Response Recognition Award to recognise groups of frontline workers who contributed to New Zealand's COVID-19 response. Your request is based on the premise that recipients of the award received monetary payments. This is incorrect. Recipients of the award received a certificate and a lapel pin in acknowledgement of their contribution. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act on the basis the information does not exist.

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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**