



22 September 2025



Ref: OIA-2025/26-0159

Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request for an unredacted version of a 2021 COVID-19 briefing about the domestic use of COVID-19 vaccination certificates

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 30 August 2025. Your request was transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 2 September 2025. You requested:

*"The office of prime minister and cabinet released this briefing <https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/Initial-advice-on-the-domestic-use-of-COVID-19-Vaccination-certificates.pdf> ;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!pncTiSwhS5IDhbiiloCa9Cute4TzGi1qNQm6Vcz4bD4h6axmlcQYvLU 4uBMRqx 0eNr6Bx5aK7Hn5-opWauxGyVevH1fW-oBkM84d1ZRhOS\$ It's full of legal advice that is hidden. I request this legal advice to be released given the wide use of vaccine passports, the wide purview of the vaccine passport usage in 2021/2022 and also the fact that the Ombudsman's office recognises what kinds of legal advice should be released under the Official information act here https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/sites/default/files/2022-02/Legal*20professional*20privilege*20-20A*20guide*20to*20section*209*282*29*28h*29*20of*20the*20OIA*20and*20section*207*282*29*28q*29*20of*20the*20LGOIMA.pdf ;JSUIJSUIJSUIJS UIJSUIJSUIJSUIJSUIJQ!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!pncTiSwhS5IDhbiiloCa9Cute4TzGi1qNQm6Vcz4bD4h6axmlcQYvLU 4uBMRqx 0eNr6Bx5aK7Hn5-opWauxGyVevH1fW-oBkM84bMeenaC\$ Public interest such as the royal covid enquiry is high. Please provide all the unredacted legal advice in this briefing to your office DPMC: DPMC-2021/22-324 "Joint Briefing INITIAL ADVICE ON THE DOMESTIC USE OF COVID-19 VACCINATION CERTIFICATES"."*

As noted in your request, the joint DPMC and Ministry of Health briefing dated 17 September 2021 "Initial Advice on The Domestic use of COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates" is publicly available on DPMC's website at: www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/Initial-advice-on-the-domestic-use-of-COVID-19-Vaccination-certificates.pdf.

Information has been withheld from the published briefing to protect legal privilege as well as a small amount of information withheld to protect privacy and to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion. In the light of your request, we have reassessed the information that was withheld to maintain legal privilege.

The information that was withheld at the time the paper was originally published continues to be withheld under section 9(2)(h), as the legal privilege remains in place.

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 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



Alan Cassidy
Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate and Chief People Officer