DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

24 June 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0774

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted],

Official Information Act request relating to pandemic preparedness, GAVI, and the New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act (the Act), which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 29 May 2026. You requested:

> *"[…] the following information:*
>
> 1. *Any papers, briefings, agendas, or records of decisions from the Cabinet National Security Committee (NSC) that address pandemic preparedness in the context of New Zealand's relationship with GAVI (the Vaccine Alliance), the World Health Organization, or the Gates Foundation, during the period 1 January 2024 to date.*
>
> 2. *Any papers, briefings, agendas, or records of decisions from the Cabinet National Security Committee or any Cabinet committee that address the implications of the New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement for New Zealand's national security or biosecurity, specifically including any discussion of pharmaceutical supply chain resilience or emergency vaccine procurement, during the period 1 January 2024 to 26 April 2026.*
>
> 3. *Any correspondence, briefing papers, or records of communication between DPMC officials and Helen Clark - in any capacity - regarding pandemic preparedness, GAVI's role in New Zealand's health security framework, or the NZ-India FTA pharmaceutical provisions, during the period 1 January 2024 to date.*
>
> 4. *Any DPMC or Cabinet records that address New Zealand's obligations or commitments under GAVI's co-financing or support agreements, and whether those commitments were considered during NZ-India FTA negotiations, during the period 1 January 2024 to 26 April 2026.*
>
> 5. *Any DPMC assessments, risk papers, or briefings regarding the 2026 WHO Public Health Emergency of International Concern declarations - specifically the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak in DRC/Uganda (declared 17 May 2026) and the Bangladesh measles outbreak - prepared during the period 1 January 2026 to date […]"*

For ease of reference, I have numbered the parts of your request.

On 17 June 2026, we notified you of DPMC's decision to transfer Part 1 of your request to the Ministry of Health, and Part 2 and the aspect of Part 4 seeking Cabinet material to the Minister for Trade and Investment, Hon Todd McClay. We also referred you to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (MFAT) for the forthcoming response to your request to them with respect to any additional material in scope of Part 2.

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Cabinet material – Parts 1, 2 and 4

While the Cabinet Office, a business unit within DPMC, holds all Cabinet papers and minutes, portfolio Ministers and lead agencies are better positioned to assess their own material for release under the Act. As a result, DPMC transfers requests for Cabinet material from the current administration to the relevant portfolio Minister, and requests for material from previous administrations to the appropriate government agency. This applies to the parts of your request that were transferred under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

The present response therefore addresses only material held by DPMC that is relevant to Part 3, Part 5, and the remainder of Part 4 (that is, the aspects not transferred to the Minister for Trade and Investment).

Part 3

We have interpreted this part of your request as seeking any correspondence or formal advice on the specified topics that DPMC has sent to or received from Helen Clark during the period 1 January 2024 – 29 May 2026.

Parts 4 and 5

We have interpreted Part 5 and the remaining aspect of Part 4 as seeking formal advice on the specified topics. Part 5 covers the period 1 January 2026 to 29 May 2026, while Part 4 covers the period 1 January 2024 to 26 April 2026.

Information to be refused

For the parts of your request that remain with DPMC, we have conducted reasonable searches of our information management systems. These searches have not identified any material within scope of Part 3, Part 5, or the remaining aspect of Part 4. Accordingly, I am refusing these parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, on the basis that the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

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 DPMC 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



Jeremy Clarke-Watson
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security and Resilience Group