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

18 August 2026

Ref: OIA-2026/27-0110

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted],

Official Information Act request relating to Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern's telephone calls with Pfizer and related advice

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 4 August 2026. You requested:

> *"[…] information held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet or the Prime Minister's Office:*
> *1. All briefing notes, talking points, diary entries, call notes, file notes, and related records prepared for, or arising from, Jacinda Ardern's telephone discussions with: Albert Bourla (Pfizer CEO), and Anne Harris (Pfizer Australia and New Zealand Managing Director) in 2021.*
> *2. Please also include any subsequent internal advice, action points, or communications that followed those calls"*

Parts of your request to be transferred

At the end of their tenures, information held by Ministers, including the Prime Minister, is returned to the relevant departments or agencies or transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and Archives New Zealand.

I would note that although the DIA holds email correspondence from former Ministers, including Prime Ministers, it may not hold all the information you have requested. Information held by former Ministers is also transferred to Archives New Zealand. You can search public records online via the Archives New Zealand website at: www.archives.govt.nz.

In addition, I note that the subject matter of your request is more closely connected to the functions of the Ministry of Health (MoH).

I believe that parts of your request are more closely connected to the functions of the DIA and MoH. Accordingly, I have decided to partially transfer your request to DIA and MoH under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as it is more closely connected to their functions.

DIA and MoH have the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Information publicly available

DPMC have identified four meetings and phone calls that are within the scope of your request, these are:

- 28/02/2021 14:00 - 14:15 MEET: Managing Director, Australia and NZ, Pfizer Via phone Managing Director, Australia and NZ, Pfizer Prime Minister
- 10/03/2021 11:00 - 11:15 PHONE CALL: Albert Bourla, Pfizer Via phone Albert Bourla, Pfizer Prime Minister

Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, New Zealand 6011
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- 8/07/2021 09:00 - 09:30 MEET: Pfizer Via phone Dr Albert Bourla, Chair and CEO, Pfizer Prime Minister
- 6/09/2021 11:30 - 11:45 PHONE CALL: Chief Executive Officer of Pfizer Via Phone Dr Albert Bourla, Chair and CEO, Pfizer Prime Minister

The details of these meetings are publicly available on the Beehive website in the proactive releases of the Prime Minister's diary and can be accessed at this link. https://www.beehive.govt.nz/search?f%5B0%5D=content_type_facet%3Aministerial_diary&f%5B1%5D=government_facet%3A6455&f%5B2%5D=ministers%3A6461

Information to be withheld

Identified as relevant to your request are some briefings provided by the DPMC Policy Advisory Group to the Prime Minister. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence to support them in their role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. These briefings are withheld in their entirety under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

Additionally, an email between the DPMC Policy Advisory Group and officials at MoH has been identified as within the scope of your request. However, this email has previously been withheld under section 9(2)(b), as information is commercially sensitive, and it will continue to be withheld under this section.

Where section 9 of the Act applies, 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 are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response 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



Janine Smith
Deputy Chief Executive, Policy Advisory Group