



21 February 2023

Tēnā koe

On 20 January 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Please provide ALL communications and information regarding the MSDs establishment of the vaccine mandates for MSD and WINZ employees.*
- *The information needs to show the original notification from NZ Govt to the minister of MSD and the MSD Executive including the names (and dates) of those involved.*
- *All information including notes and memos and emails and phone transcripts of the conversations and notifications and communications involved in the covid mandates for MSD and WINZ employees.*

On 24 January 2023, the Ministry emailed you to advise that part of your request namely, *the original notification from NZ Govt to the minister of MSD*, was transferred to the office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment, for a response.

In response to your request, the Ministry's Vaccination Policy Consultation (Consultation document) is available on our website and can be found here: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2022/march/24-03-2022-information-relating-to-covid-19-vaccination-policy-including-impacts-for-staff-members-appendix-2-.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2022/march/24-03-2022-information-relating-to-covid-19-vaccination-policy-including-impacts-for-staff-members-appendix-2-.pdf)

I have considered your request for all information including notes, memos, emails, phone transcripts, notifications and communication involved in the COVID mandates for MSD and WINZ employees as being met by the provision of the Ministry's Consultation document. Over 4,900 staff provided feedback during the consultation process, and substantial manual collation would be required to locate and prepare all documents within scope of your request. However, I consider this part of your request as being met by the

release of the Consultation document, specifically pages 5-23, providing a comprehensive summary of the themes of feedback it received in line with sections 16(1)(e) and 16(2)(a) of the Act. This has been done to ensure sufficient information is provided to address any transparency and accountability reasons favouring release of the information without impairing efficient administration.

The Ministry's assessment of Health and Safety, Security can be found here: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2022/march/24-03-2022-information-relating-to-covid-19-vaccination-policy-including-impacts-for-staff-members-appendix-1-.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2022/march/24-03-2022-information-relating-to-covid-19-vaccination-policy-including-impacts-for-staff-members-appendix-1-.pdf)

Please see the link below (1 of 2) to a previous Official Information Act response regarding the Ministry's COVID-19 Safety Plan: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2022/march/24-03-2022-copies-of-msd-s-covid-19-safety-plan.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2022/march/24-03-2022-copies-of-msd-s-covid-19-safety-plan.pdf)

Please see the link below (2 of 2) to another Official Information Act response relating to COVID-19 vaccination policy including impacts for staff members: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2022/march/24-03-2022-information-relating-to-covid-19-vaccination-policy-including-impacts-for-staff-members.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2022/march/24-03-2022-information-relating-to-covid-19-vaccination-policy-including-impacts-for-staff-members.pdf)

The Ministry's COVID-19 Vaccination Policy can be found here: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/covid-19/msd-covid-19-vaccination-policy.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/covid-19/msd-covid-19-vaccination-policy.pdf)

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Melissa Gill

**Deputy Chief Executive  
Organisational Assurance and Communication**

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