



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

15 February 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 25 January 2024, requesting information about any long-term benefits paid to employees for COVID-19. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

No compensation has been paid by the Ministry to its employees for 'long-term COVID' or for any 'COVID-19 related illnesses'. One claim was made via the Ministry's contracted provider; however, this was declined following a specialist report.

The Ministry's leave provisions are in accordance with the Public Service Commission guidelines which resulted in the availability of Discretionary Leave for COVID-19 related illness. This was over and above the normal contracted sick leave provisions.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal detailed removed, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, 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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.

Magnus O'Neill

**General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services**