



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

30 March 2021

9(2)(a) privacy

Dear 9(2)(a) privacy

Official Information Request

Our Ref: 2021-0024

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), which was transferred from the Ministry of Health (MoH) to Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission on 23 March 2021 for:

“I wanted to know if there is a plan for any separate government agency being formed to deal entirely with the COVID-19 response given there’s a minister assigned to this portfolio who is also Education minister and state services minister”

Information being released

In December 2020, the matter of “whether a separate COVID-19 response agency should be created” was considered by Cabinet through the paper titled ‘COVID-19 Response Paper 2 – Establishing a COVID-19 Response Unit’. This paper assessed the structural options for delivering on the COVID-19 response coordination, including the possibility of a new agency.

Cabinet did not at the time consider establishment of a separate agency to be necessary and instead agreed to continue a dedicated unit within Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). Cabinet have invited the Minister for COVID-19 Response to report-back on the performance of the arrangements to determine whether a separate agency might be required in future.

Information publicly available

The following information listed in the table below is covered by your request and is publicly available on the website provided.

Accordingly, we have refused your request for the documents listed in the table below under section 18(d) of the OIA – the information requested is publicly available.

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1	March 2021	Cabinet Paper: COVID-19 Response Paper 2 – Establishing a COVID-19 Response Unit	https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/Proactive-release-8-March-2021/2-Establishing-a-COVID-19-Response-Unit-Paper-2-1.pdf
2	March 2021	Cabinet Business Committee Minute: Establishing a COVID-19 Response Unit (Paper 2)	https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/Proactive-release-8-March-2021/2-Establishing-a-COVID-19-Response-Unit-Paper-2-1.pdf

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks

Managing Principal – Ministerial Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission