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9 August 2024

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2024047373

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 25 July 2024 for information regarding the Government's preparations for a new pandemic. You requested:

"The latest documents on how the NZ Govt will deal with a new pandemic in NZ and the regulations they will put in place."

Your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available. There are a number of documents that would guide the response to any future pandemic, including in particular:

- New Zealand Pandemic Plan: A framework for action (interim update):
www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-pandemic-plan-framework-action.
- The National Health Emergency Plan (NHEP):
www.health.govt.nz/our-work/emergency-management/national-health-emergency-plan.
- Getting Through Together: Ethical values for a pandemic:
neac.health.govt.nz/publications-and-resources/neac-publications/getting-through-together-ethical-values-for-a-pandemic.
- The H5N1 Pre-Pandemic Vaccine Usage Policy:
www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-h5n1-pre-pandemic-vaccine-usage-policy.
- The National Reserve Supplies Usage Policy:
www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-health-emergency-plan-national-reserve-supplies-management-and-usage-policies-3rd-edition.
- The Aotearoa New Zealand Strategic Framework for Managing COVID-19:
www.health.govt.nz/publication/aotearoa-new-zealand-strategic-framework-managing-covid-19.
- The New Zealand Aotearoa Pandemic Response Policy for Aged Residential Care:
www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-aotearoa-pandemic-response-policy-aged-residential-care.

The existing legislation that could be used to support a pandemic response is listed in the New Zealand pandemic plan linked above. Whether or not the Government chooses to make new legislation is the prerogative of Cabinet and Parliament and cannot be predicted in advance.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, na



Jane Chambers
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