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7 July 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: **s 9(2)(a)**
Ref: H202208151

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 (the Ministry) on 20 June 2022. You requested:

“Would you be able to guide me to MoH cost of COVID-19 public health measures? And outline what measures/operations are currently in place?”.

On 23 June 2022, you were contacted by the Ministry to clarify your request. On the same day you clarified:

“From when the Pandemic was declared by WHO and the NZ government commenced action in March 2020 using the public health legislation to mandate lockdowns. The pandemic preparedness budget mobilised and spent by MoH to resource hospitals, primary care and community care, including DHBs, GPs, Primary Health Organisations, NGOs plus advertising in newspapers and other communications networks, investment in protective gear, in research and engagement with overseas authorities to receive advice including on vaccination development. Of course, following on with costs associated with vaccine purchase, delivery across NZ for initial SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, challenges of Delta and Omicron and ongoing vaccination and support. Basically overall costs, over and above the normal health budget.”

Details of the Health system response to COVID-19 are published each year in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Health. These can be found on the Ministry of Health website at: www.health.govt.nz/publications?f%5B0%5D=im_field_category%3A331&f%5B1%5D=im_field_category%3A390&f%5B2%5D=im_field_category%3A391#find-by-region .

The main section which details the expenditure incurred can be found in note 3 to the non-departmental statements and schedules for the year (page 120 for 2019/20, and page 128 for 2020/21). The costs associated with the current financial year will be published in the Ministry’s annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022. This is expected to be publicly available in mid-October following the completion of the external audit.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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 Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Celia Wellington'.

Celia Wellington
**Deputy Director-General
Corporate Services**