

15 June 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email s 9(2)(a)
Ref H202206353

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 17 May 2022 for information about the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Pandemic Treaty. Please find a response to your request below.

"Documents/reports regarding the WHO Global Pandemic Treaty (also known as the International Agreement on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response; the Global Treaty on Pandemic Preparedness and the International Pandemic Treaty)"

WHO Member States, including New Zealand, jointly agreed to begin negotiating a new treaty (or instrument) at a special session of the World Health Assembly in November 2021. A pandemic treaty or instrument was a key recommendation of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, to help improve the global community's ability to respond to future pandemics. This information can be found on:

www.theindependentpanel.org/about-the-independent-panel/.

The negotiations towards a new treaty or instrument are being taken forward via an Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) involving all WHO Member States including New Zealand. As part of the INB process, Member States will jointly determine what actions will be required to better prevent, prepare and respond to a future pandemic. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the INB, you can access further information at:

www.who.int/newsroom/events/detail/2021/11/29/default-calendar/second-special-session-of-the-world-healthassembly.

New Zealand sees the establishment of the INB as an important step towards preparing the world for future health emergencies and ensuring that a global health crisis of this magnitude does not occur again. Governments are working towards an outcome by the 77th World Health Assembly in 2024: www.who.int/about/governance/world-health-assembly.

Please note that the Ministry is proactively releasing joint advice produced with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) that relates to negotiations towards a new pandemic treaty or instrument in the coming weeks. As such, your request for documents regarding the WHO global pandemic treaty is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested will soon be made publicly available. This information will be published at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/general-information-releases.

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 'S. Turner', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sarah Turner
Deputy Director-General
Office of the Director-General

