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2 March 2023

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H2023019923

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 Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 7 February 2023 for information regarding the World Health Organization (WHO) pandemic treaty. You requested:

*"Is New Zealand government aware and/or had anything to do with the World Health Organisation's pandemic treaty? If so please supply the contract/draft contract."*

*Is New Zealand Government aware of the recently released World Health Organisation's Contract called "Zero Draft" (pandemic treaty now renamed due to pushback from the people) that targets all country's and international law?*

*Is New Zealand Government aware of the International Health Regulations changes when this WHO contract comes in and each person will lose there sovereignty and choice if WHO declares a Pandemic/scamdemic?"*

At a special session of the World Health Assembly in November 2021, New Zealand and other World Health Organization (WHO) Member States decided to begin negotiating a new treaty or other international instrument on global pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. This work is now being taken forward by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) open to all WHO Member States, including New Zealand. The INB's work will continue until May 2024, when it is expected to present its final product to the 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly.

Member States have not yet agreed if the instrument will be a legally binding treaty or a non-legally binding alternative. At the INB's fourth session in February 2023, Member States considered a draft text of the instrument, referred to as a 'Zero Draft'. As noted above, negotiations in the INB will continue until May 2024, therefore no Member States are legally bound by the content of the Zero Draft instrument.

You can learn more about the work of the INB and access a copy of the Zero Draft here: [Learn more about the work of the INB](#).

I also note your interest in amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR). This process is being carried out by the Working Group on Amendments to the IHR (WGIHR), which is also open to all WHO Member States, including New Zealand. The WGIHR is tasked with developing a package of targeted amendments to the IHR by May 2024. You can access

more information on the WGIHR here: [WHO | Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#)

It is important to note that where sovereign decision-making is concerned, governments (including New Zealand) are jointly driving both the INB and WGIHR processes. It is up to governments to jointly determine what actions will be required to strengthen the IHR and better prevent, prepare and respond to a future pandemic.

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](mailto: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](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



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