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13 April 2023

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By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2023021776

Tēnā koe s
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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 14 March 2023 for information regarding COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) minutes. You requested:

*“Could I please be sent the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group minutes for all meetings held from January 2021 to December 2021?
And any meetings held to date from 2023.”*

Appended to this letter are the COVID-19 TAG (Technical Advisory Group) minutes held in 2021 and to date of this request. All documents are itemised in Appendix 1 and copies of the documents are enclosed, where information is publicly the link is provided. Where information is withheld, this is outlined in the Appendix and noted in the document itself. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

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 Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Michelle Mako
Acting Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	5 February 2021 – 25 June 2021	COVID-19 TAG Minutes	Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • section 9(2)(b)(ii) where is release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information; • Section 9(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials; and • Section 9(2)(k) to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.
2	23 July 2021	COVID-19 TAG Minutes	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(k) of the Act.
3	20 August 2021 – 22 October 2021	COVID-19 TAG Minutes	Publicly available here: https://fyi.org.nz/request/16691/response/70341/attach/7/Appendix%203.pdf .
4	12 November 2021	COVID-19 TAG Minutes	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(k) of the Act.
5	10 December 2021	COVID-19 TAG Minutes	
6	10 February 2023	COVID-19 TAG Minutes	Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers and officers and employees of any public service agency; and • section 9(2)(k) of the Act.