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30 January 2023

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022017383

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 22 November 2022 for information regarding Focus Group meetings for the National Ethics Advisor Committee (NEAC). You requested.

“How many of the roughly 440 submissions from the public were in respect to your consultation on "Ethical Guidance for a Pandemic" and how many provided input or responded to your Ethical Guidance for a Pandemic survey.

- 1. Please provide the date of meeting, agenda, working papers, and meeting notes; minutes, outcomes, of the Focus Group meetings?*
 - 2. Please provide the names and titles of participants in the Focus Group meetings (where privacy is an issue I do not require the names of members of the general public who participated), and who led these meetings?*
 - 3. Please provide the background information that led to the initiation of the Focus Group meetings.*
 - 3a) Please provide all memos and briefings;*
 - 3b) Please provide all materials in respect to Focus Group meetings developed prior to or post event, including; other formats; videos, zoom meeting files, proposed or published advertisements for focus group meeting participants etc.;*
 - 3c) Please provide all materials provided to the Focus Group meetings and any outcomes, documents, video or more formats;*
 - 3d) Please provide all information about or from any meetings, hui or other gatherings, in person or online related to the Focus Group Meetings conducted prior to or post the event”*
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Manatū Hauora provided you with a response to this request for information on 16 January 2023. However, upon further consideration of your request, we are providing you with additional information. As you were advised by OIA Manager, Jan Torres on 20 January 2023, we are reconsidering our response specifically in relation to meeting minutes for 22 September 2022 NEAC meeting minutes and focus group zoom meetings and video files. Please accept our apologies for the confusion or frustration this may have caused.

The 22 September 2022 NEAC meeting minutes are now publicly available here: <https://neac.health.govt.nz/meetings/2022-meetings/>.

The focus group meeting video recordings are withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act 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. I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing information and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time. The NEAC will release a summary of submissions once this has been completed this year.

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



Ruihua Gu
Acting Group Manager, Quality Assurance and Safety
Regulatory Services | Te Pou Whakariterite Ratonga