



24 February 2023

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2023020151

Tēnā koe § 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 14 February 2023 for information regarding a pandemic action plan. You requested:

"I would like to have the information showing who influenced and what the rationale was for not following our New Zealand Pandemic Action Plan 2006.

- 1. Who was involved in advocating to dismiss the Pandemic Action Plan 2006?*
- 2. What was/were the reason(s) given to dismiss the Pandemic Action Plan 2006?"*

The 'New Zealand Pandemic Action Plan 2006' does not exist, as such your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act. However, the following information may be of interest to you.

New Zealand's early response to the novel coronavirus (later named SARS-CoV-2) in the first few months of 2020 was informed by the emerging clinical and epidemiological information. In addition, aspects of the early response were guided in part by the generic components of the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Plan (NZIPP) 2017. The NZIPP is based around phases of plan for it, keep it out, stamp it out, manage it, and recover from it.

On 28 January 2020, Manatū Hauora activated the National Health Coordination Centre and three days later the World Health Organization (WHO) determined the event to be a public health emergency of international concern under International Health Regulations 2005.

On 11 March 2020, the WHO declared the event to be a pandemic. In New Zealand, we prepared the Elimination Strategy, including the introduction of the specially developed Alert Levels on 21 March 2020. The Alert Levels provided a flexible framework of adapted responses which prioritised the protection of human health while allowing the maintenance of essential services.

From April 2020 we drew upon the rapidly developed COVID-19 Health and Disability System Response Plan to guide our response. You can find more information about this here: www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-health-and-disability-system-response-plan.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ross Bell', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Ross Bell
Acting Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui