

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Minister for COVID-19 Response
Minister of Research, Science and Innovation
Minister for Seniors
Associate Minister of Health



02 SEP 2022

Ombudsmen Ref: 568703
Ref: C-19 OIA 2021-033

Thomas Beagle
Chairperson
New Zealand Council of Civil Liberties
thomas@nzcccl.org.nz

Tēnā koe Thomas Beagle,

Investigation of Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) complaint: Request from the New Zealand Council for Civil Liberties (NZCCL) for information about vaccination certificates

I refer to your OIA request of 9 October 2021 to my predecessor, Hon Chris Hipkins in which you requested:

All information that has been provided to the sectors or organisations the government is consulting with on the vaccine certificate, as well as advice from the Privacy Commissioner and from the Minister of Justice or Crown Law on the NZ Bill of Rights Act and Human Rights Act implications of the proposals.

The Office of the Ombudsman has advised that following a formal OIA complaint from NZCCL, it is investigating Minister Hipkins' decision on the above request for information.

In my response to the Office of the Ombudsman, I acknowledged that your request for "information provided to the sectors or organisations the government is consulting with on the vaccine certificate" was not appropriately addressed in the 22 November 2021 response from Minister Hipkins.

I have been advised that in the development of the policy work on the COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates (CVCs), relevant Ministers led engagement through targeted discussions with a range of stakeholders, including Treaty Partners, the Health and Disability Sector, supermarkets, retail, hospitality and events, sports, places of worship, education entities, unions, and other workplaces in early October 2021.

Slide-decks, which were accurate at the time of engagement, were provided to help inform the engagement with various groups and organisations during consultation.

For completion, I am now providing you with the following slide-decks used at the time of consultation:

Type	Name
PowerPoint	Master presentation – COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates
PowerPoint	Updated Community Panel Presentation and Questions

I can further advise that feedback received through the discussions with stakeholders helped inform and was incorporated into a Cabinet paper in mid-October *COVID-19 Confirming a strategy for a highly vaccinated New Zealand*. This Cabinet paper has been proactively released and is available on the Unite Against COVID-19 website at: www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/Proactive-Releases/Alert-levels-and-restrictions/10-Dec-2021/Vaccine-Certificates-and-CPF/COVID-19-Confirming-a-strategy-for-a-highly-vaccinated-New-Zealand.pdf

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Minister for COVID-19 Response

cc: Tim Hope
Manager – Early Resolution (ERT1)
Office of the Ombudsman