

# Office of the Prime Minister



## Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

22 JUN 2020

Ryan Potts

By email: [fyi-request-12562-ae315dca@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12562-ae315dca@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: PMO 2020-056

Dear Ryan Potts

### Official Information Act request relating to the Report “Modelled Estimates for the Spread and Health Impact of Covid-19 in New Zealand”

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 1 April 2020. You requested:

*“...When and by whom were you first briefed on the contents of a report titled “Modelled Estimates for the Spread and Health Impact of Covid-19 in New Zealand”? Was the report submitted to Cabinet; if so, when and by whom?...”*

I note the time limits for responding to your request were extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days to allow for further consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on your request, as the officials with responsibility for the information you requested are involved in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

A search was undertaken by this office to determine when and by whom the Prime Minister was briefed on the report ‘*Modelled Estimates for the Spread and Health Impact of Covid-19 in New Zealand*’. This report was the draft version of the modelling used as an informative resource for the Cabinet paper ‘*COVID-19 Giving an Epidemic Notice and Epidemic Management Notices under the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006*’. This paper was presented at Cabinet on 23 March 2020 by the Minister of Health, Hon Dr David Clark.

The Prime Minister was also briefed by her Office on the contents of the draft modelling on 29 March 2020, prior to its proactive release on the Ministry of Health’s website. The Prime Minister recalls seeing the numbers prior to Cabinet on 23 March 2020, however, I am unable to confirm whether 29 March 2020 was the first time the Prime Minister was formally briefed on the draft modelling as she receives a large and wide variety of resources from a number of sources.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Nahna'.

Raj Nahna  
Chief of Staff