



George Dawes

by email: [fyi-request-15441-fcea1bd2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15441-fcea1bd2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: PMO 2021-099

Dear George Dawes

## Official Information Act request relating to phase two of the a COVID-19 Response Plan

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 13 May 2021. I am responding on the Prime Minister's behalf as my official duties involve responding to requests made under the Act to the Prime Minister. You requested:

*"Ardern said New Zealand is currently at "phase two" of its reopening plan, which is a "holding pattern" until New Zealanders are vaccinated.*

*Please provide a copy of the plan you are referring to."*

The Prime Minister was not referring to a specific document when she referred to a COVID-19 Response Plan in her speech, but instead was using the term "phase two" to refer to a set of arrangements enacted by the Government, to differentiate from the previous set of arrangements that were in place. The Prime Minister described what she referred to as the "phase two" arrangements in her speech, which you can read on the Beehive website here: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/pre-budget-speech-business-new-zealand-1>

Therefore, for the purposes of the Act, as the Prime Minister was not referring to a specific document, I must refuse your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information requested does not exist. However, if you would like to learn more about the Government's response to COVID-19, and the planning that has been undertaken over the past year, a large volume of information is available on the COVID-19 website at: [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz).

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Raj Nahna'.

Raj Nahna  
Chief of Staff