



13 February 2024

Ref: DOIA 2324-0560

M Bell

Email: [fyi-request-24078-b8ce4d38@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24078-b8ce4d38@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe M Bell

Thank you for your email of 4 November to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, following up our response to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) of 2 November. In that email you clarified:

*I was asking for the actual procurement documents, not the already available summary information or the auditor general report which I have already seen. Please provide the actual documents (understand there will likely be redactions where valid).*

Because the purchasing of vaccines was a novel process undertaken directly through Ministerial and Cabinet decision making, there was not a single procurement plan as you would expect for routine departmental purchasing. Instead the procurement process is set out across several documents. The key documents are:

- The briefing “COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy – Purchasing Strategy and funding envelope”
- The Cabinet paper “COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy: Purchasing Strategy and Funding Options (CAB-20-MIN-0382)”
- The key purchase decisions for each of the vaccines which outline how these decisions were operationalised in practice.

The first two documents are available on the COVID-19 Proactive Release website and were released on 9 October 2020 under the Health response heading. These documents are referred to in the Ministry of Health summary of vaccine purchasing. The direct link to the relevant section of the COVID-19 Proactive Release website is:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/about-our-covid-19-response/proactive-releases/health-response/>

The purchase decisions were provided to you in our previous release.

We have also identified one further document that could be considered to fall within the description of a procurement strategy or plan. This is a briefing “COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy – Framework to guide purchase decisions”, which is used in the purchase decisions that have been previously released to you.

Some of the information requested has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 6(a), that the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- 6(b)(i), that the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government

- 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

With regard to information withheld under s9(2)(ba)(i), I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact [OIA@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@mbie.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Simon Rae

**Policy Director – Emerging Technologies**  
Science, Innovation and International