

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



AJ Brown

fyi-request-17370-7ee41ea0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref. CHOIA193

Dear AJ,

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 28 October 2021 for:

“Has the prime minister or any cabinet ministers had contact with the administrator of Tokelau regarding covid 19 or the covid 19 vaccination program in Tokelau?”

I request copies of any correspondence involving covid 19 and Tokelau's covid 19 vaccine rollout/ plan between the prime minister and the administrator of Tokelau between 1st May 2021 and 31st August 2021.

I request copies of any correspondence involving covid 19 and Tokelau's covid 19 vaccine rollout/plan between the any cabinet minister and the administrator of Tokelau between 1st May 2021 and 31st August 2021.

Your request for Official Information has been declined under Section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information requested does not exist.

While Cabinet Ministers have not had written correspondence with the Administrator of Tokelau (the Administrator), Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Health and Foreign Affairs has had contact with the Administrator regarding Tokelau's COVID-19 vaccination roll-out.

On Monday 12 July 2021 Minister Sio met with the Administrator of Tokelau on the HMNZS Wellington in Devonport, Auckland to see off a shipment of COVID-19 vaccines to Tokelau. This was delivered by the New Zealand Defence Force on behalf of the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs. This engagement was in person and therefore there is no written correspondence to release.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', representing Chris Hipkins.

Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response