



7 August 2024

Wendy McGuinness
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Ref: OIA-2024/25-0025

Dear Wendy McGuinness

Official Information Act request relating to clarification about an All of Government document - COVID-19 Mitigation versus suppression

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 11 July 2024. You requested:

“Our OIA 2024/22: Request for clarification on the All of Government document: COVID-19 Mitigation versus suppression (18 March 2020)

We are in the process of updating the second edition of our COVID-19 Nation Dates book. In this process we came across a Newsroom article that mentioned ‘[a]n All of Government document entitled “mitigation vs suppression” dated 18 March 2020.

We have had a good look online and came across this one pager (found on a DPMC page listing COVID-19 proactive release material).

Question 1: Can you clarify whether this is the only document with that date and title?

Question 2: Was this one-pager released as part of a main report? If yes, please provide the main report, or a link to where it can be found?”

When considering your request we have only referred to information held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC).

As you say, the document titled ‘Covid-19 Mitigation versus suppression’ dated 18 March 2020 (the document) is on DPMC’s website – at www.dPMC.govt.nz/publications/covid-19-response-2020.

We haven’t been able to identify the document’s history. The website says “Covid-19 proactive release material was originally published on the Unite Against Covid-19 website. On 26 January 2023 this material was migrated to the [DPMC] website”.

We have consulted with colleagues, including other agencies. We have concluded the document was not created by DPMC, and that it was not placed on the Covid-19 website by DPMC. We note:

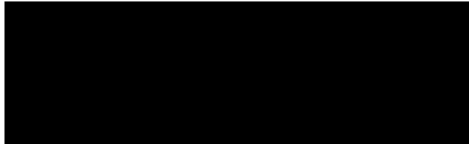
- we have not identified any other document with the same date and title
- its reference number does not seem to be a DPMC one
- we have not identified a main report that contains the document, and
- we surmise, but can’t determine, the document is not part of a bigger report.

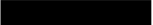
I refuse your request for a main report that contains the document under section 18(e) of the Act – the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

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

We do not intend to publish this response on DPMC's website.

Yours sincerely

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Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement