

**ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God Queen of
New Zealand and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the
Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith**

To Our Trusty and Well-beloved
The Honourable Christopher John Hipkins

GREETING !

We, having taken into Our Royal Consideration your Loyalty, Integrity, and Ability, are pleased to appoint and **DO HEREBY** appoint you, **Christopher John Hipkins**, to be Our

Minister for COVID-19 Response

of New Zealand: **TO HAVE**, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said Office for and during Our Pleasure and Will; together with all and singular the Rights, Profits, Privileges, and Advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining, in the most full and ample manner: Provided always that you, the said **Christopher John Hipkins** during such time as you shall hold the said Office, shall reside in New Zealand, and execute the said Office of **Minister for COVID-19 Response** in person, except only in the case of sickness or other incapacity, and leave of absence first duly granted.

GIVEN, in Our name and on Our behalf

BY Our Trusty and Well-beloved The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, Chancellor and Principal Dame Grand Companion of Our New Zealand Order of Merit, Principal Companion of Our Service Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over Our Realm of New Zealand.

AND issued under the Seal of New Zealand this sixth day of November in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty in the sixty-ninth year of Our Reign.

**IRIHĀPETI TE TUARUA, nā te huatau o te Atua, te Kuīni o
Aotearoa me ērā atu o ōna whaitua, rohe hoki, te Upoko o te Kāhui
Whenua, te Kaiwawao o te Whakapono**

Ki tō mātau
The Honourable Christopher John Hipkins
Pono, e Kaha-arohanuitia ana

NGĀ MIHI !

Ko mātau, kua whaiwhakaaro ā-Ariki nei ki tō āhua Piripono, Ngākaupono, Kaha hoki, e harikoa ana ki te tohu, ā, **HEI KONEI** tohu i a koe, **Christopher John Hipkins**, hei

Minister for COVID-19 Response mō mātau

o Aotearoa: **KI TE MAU**, ki te pupuri, ki te whakamahi i te Tari e kīia nei, kia eke ki tō mātau Pārekareka, Kaha hoki; tuia ki Ngā Tika, Ngā Hua, Ngā Painga me Ngā Patanga e puritia ana, e hāngaitia ana, i runga i te āhua whānui, whai hua hoki: i ngā wā katoa kia tutuki i a koe, te **Christopher John Hipkins** i te wā ka noho koe ki te Tari, ka noho ki Aotearoa, ā, ka ea ā-tinana nei i Te Tari o **Minister for COVID-19 Response**, hāunga ngā wā e māuiui ana, i ngā wā ka whakaaetia kia ngaro atu.

**E WHAKAMANAHIA ANA i runga i tō Mātau
ingoa, me tō Mātau mana**

E te Hōnore Kahurangi Pono, e Kaha-Arohanuitia ana, arā a Kahurangi Patsy Reddy, te Tumuaki o Te Tohu Kairangi Matua o Aotearoa, o Te Tohu Hapori, te Kāwana-Tianara, me te Toihau-Matua ki roto, ki runga hoki i tēnei whenua o tātau, o Aotearoa.

Ā, e whakapuakina ana i raro i te Hiri o Aotearoa, i te rā tuaono o Nōema i te tau rua mano, rua tekau, arā te tau ono tekau mā iwa o tō mātau Kuīnitanga.



Governor-General | Kāwana-Tianara

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God Queen of New Zealand and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

To Our Trusty and Well-beloved
The Honourable Dr Ayesha Jennifer Verrall

GREETING !

We, having taken into Our Royal Consideration your Loyalty, Integrity, and Ability, are pleased to appoint and DO HEREBY appoint you, **Ayesha Jennifer Verrall**, to be Our

Minister for COVID-19 Response

of New Zealand: TO HAVE, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said Office for and during Our Pleasure and Will; together with all and singular the Rights, Profits, Privileges, and Advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining, in the most full and ample manner: Provided always that you, the said **Ayesha Jennifer Verrall** during such time as you shall hold the said Office, shall reside in New Zealand, and execute the said Office of **Minister for COVID-19 Response** in person, except only in the case of sickness or other incapacity, and leave of absence first duly granted.

GIVEN, in Our name and on Our behalf

BY Our Trusty and Well-beloved The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, Chancellor and Principal Dame Grand Companion of Our New Zealand Order of Merit, Principal Companion of Our Service Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over Our Realm of New Zealand.

AND issued under the Seal of New Zealand this fourteenth day of June in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-two in the seventy-first year of Our Reign.

IRIHĀPETI TE TUARUA, nā te huatau o te Atua, te Kuīni o Aotearoa me ērā atu o ōna whaitua, rohe hoki, te Upoko o te Kāhui Whenua, te Kaiwawao o te Whakapono

Ki tō mātau
The Honourable Dr Ayesha Jennifer Verrall
Pono, e Kaha-arohanuitia ana

NGĀ MIHI !

Ko mātau, kua whaiwhakaaro ā-Ariki nei ki tō āhua Piripono, Ngākaupono, Kaha hoki, e harikoa ana ki te tohu, ā, HEI KONEI tohu i a koe, **Ayesha Jennifer Verrall**, hei

Minister for COVID-19 Response mō mātau

o Aotearoa: KI TE MAU, ki te pupuri, ki te whakamahi i te Tari e kīia nei, kia eke ki tō mātau Pārekareka, Kaha hoki; tuia ki Ngā Tika, Ngā Hua, Ngā Painga me Ngā Patanga e puritia ana, e hāngaitia ana, i runga i te āhua whānui, whai hua hoki: i ngā wā katoa kia tutuki i a koe, te **Ayesha Jennifer Verrall** i te wā ka noho koe ki te Tari, ka noho ki Aotearoa, ā, ka ea ā-tinana nei i Te Tari o **Minister for COVID-19 Response**, hāunga ngā wā e māuiui ana, i ngā wā ka whakaaetia kia ngaro atu.

E WHAKAMANAHIA ANA i runga i tō Mātau ingoa, me tō Mātau mana

E te Hōnore Kahurangi Pono, e Kaha-Arohanuitia ana, arā a Kahurangi Cindy Kiro, te Tumuaki o Te Tohu Kairangi Matua o Aotearoa, o Te Tohu Hapori, te Kāwana-Tianara, me te Toihau-Matua ki roto, ki runga hoki i tēnei whenua o tātau, o Aotearoa.

Ā, e whakapuakina ana i raro i te Hiri o Aotearoa, i te rā tekau mā whā o Hune i te tau rua mano, rua tekau mā rua, arā te tau whitu tekau mā tahi o tō mātau Kuīnitanga.

Revocation of Appointments to Ministerial Office

Her Excellency the Governor-General has revoked the following appointments:

The Honourable Carmel Jean Sepuloni from the Office of Minister for ACC;

The Honourable Grant Murray Robertson from the Office of Minister for Infrastructure;

The Honourable Janette Rose Tinetti from the Office of Minister of Internal Affairs;

The Honourable Dr Ayesha Jennifer Verrall from the Offices of Minister for COVID-19 Response and Minister for Seniors;

The Honourable Stuart Alexander Nash from the Offices of Minister for Economic and Regional Development, Minister for Small Business and Minister of Tourism;

The Honourable Damien Peter O'Connor from the Office of Minister for Rural Communities;

The Honourable Andrew James Little from the Office of Minister of Health;

The Honourable David William Parker from the Office of Minister for Oceans and Fisheries;

The Honourable Peeni Ereata Gladwyn Henare from the Office of Minister of Defence;

The Honourable Nanaia Cybele Mahuta from the Office of Minister of Local Government;

The Honourable Priyanca Radhakrishnan from the Office of Minister for Youth;

which took effect on Wednesday, 1 February 2023.

Dated at Wellington this 1st day of February 2023.

By Command:

RACHEL HAYWARD, Clerk of the Executive Council.

From: [Information \[DPMC\]](#)
To: s9(2)(g)(ii) [\[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: FW: OIA 2024/19: List of COVID-19 Independent Advisory Groups continued
Date: Thursday, 11 July 2024 11:14:19 am

From: Wendy McGuinness <wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 8:52 AM
To: Information [DPMC] <information@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: Arne Larsen <al@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
Subject: Re: OIA 2024/19: List of COVID-19 Independent Advisory Groups continued

Mōrena,

If it works for you, can we add three further questions:

Q3: We understand that on 2 November 2020 a new role was announced in Cabinet – the Minister for COVID-19 Response. Can you provide the paper supporting that decision?

Q4: When did Dr Ayesha Verrall become the Minister for COVID-19 Response? This was likely to be between May/June 2022 (via press releases), but we would prefer a date and a supporting document. A copy of the Cabinet paper would be ideal.

Q5: When was the Minister for COVID-19 Response role disestablished? We assume that was early 2023 (by reviewing press releases), but we would prefer a date and a supporting document.

Many thanks, Wendy

From: Wendy McGuinness <wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
Date: Monday, 8 July 2024 at 4:59 PM
To: information@dpmc.govt.nz <information@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: Arne Larsen <al@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
Subject: OIA 2024/19: List of COVID-19 Independent Advisory Groups

Kia ora,

OIA 2024/19: List of COVID-19 Independent Advisory Groups

We are in the process of updating the second edition of our [COVID-19 Nation Dates](#) book. As part of this process, we would like to include a table on the list of COVID-19 Independent Advisory Groups established to advise Ministers and officials in response to COVID-19. We are adapting a table we found on your website, found [here](#). We want to ensure we have the most up to date and accurate information available before we publish the book in late August.

Q1: Can you provide the name of the author/s to the row 19 May 2022, Agency responses to the CRIAG assurance areas raised during Omicron wave? The link from your table can be found [here](#).
 Q2. Can you complete following table and check that the details we have included below are correct? Note: we have included the first few rows as an example. Can add new rows for any other Independent Advisory Groups which we may have missed.

Table x: List of Independent Advisory Groups

Name of the Independent Advisory Group	Members (and Chair) [If group members have changed, could you include the duration that they spent with the group? E.g. John Smith (Jul 2020-Jul 2022)]	Date that the Independent Advisory Groups was established	Date that the Independent Advisory Groups was disestablished
COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group (CICRIAG)	Sir Brian Roche (Chair), Rob Fyfe, Dr Debbie Ryan, Professor Phillip Hill & Dr Dale Bramley ?	?	?
Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group (SPHAG)	Sir David Skegg (Chair), Maia Brewerton, Philip Hill, Ella Iosua, David Murdoch & Nikki Turner ?	?	30 December 2022?
COVID-19 Modelling Governance Group (CMGG)	Bryan Chapple (Chair), Vince Galvin, Juliet Gerrard, Paul Stocks, Cheryl Barnes, Nick Blakeley & Ian Town ?	?	?
Others?			

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks,

Wendy McGuinness

Wendy McGuinness
Chief Executive

McGuinness Institute Te Hononga Waka

Level 1A, 15 Allen Street, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 24-222 Wellington 6142
+64 4 499 8888 | www.mcguinnessinstitute.org

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From: [Wendy McGuinness](#)
To: [Information \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [Arne Larsen](#); [Patrick Shonakan](#)
Subject: OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission
Date: Thursday, 18 July 2024 6:53:39 pm
Attachments: [Attachment 2 - 20240717 QUIN.CND.2nd.ed\[42\].pdf](#)
[Attachment 1 - 20240718 p36-37.CND\[85\].pdf](#)

Kia ora,

Our OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission

Thank you for acknowledging our OIA 2024/19. The following request is being treated as a new OIA by the McGuinness Institute, but you might like to treat it as a further request to our original OIA for your records.

As you now we are in the process of updating the second edition of our [COVID-19 Nation Dates](#) book. We have seven further questions:.

Question 1: Can you confirm that the COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group, is also known as the COVID-19 Group, and/or alternatively CARG? It would be great to clarify that they are all the same organisation. (see note 2 in Attachment 1)

Question 2: Can you explain the difference between (a) the COVID-19 Group being managed by DPMC, but not being a business unit of DPMC, from 1 July 2020 to 2 December 2020 and (b) being a business unit of DPMC, from 2 December 2020? Is there a better way to describe (a) than we have done here?

FYI: We note that on your timeline (see [here](#)) 1 July 2020 is the date which the COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group (the COVID-19 Group) was established, and this is supported by the 2022 OAG report ([here](#)) which states that on 1 July 2020 the COVID-19 Group was established in DPMC. However, on your website ([here](#)) you also say in December 2020 that the COVID-19 Group was established 'as a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)'.

Question 3: Can you confirm if the dates in the table below are accurate and if possible, provide the disestablishment date of the COVID-19 Ministerial Group [see ?]? If you have any corrections or comments please add them to column 3 of the table below. These are the dates we have included in Figure 2.3, see Attachment 1 (draft pages from our book). Please advise if our figure and text is incomplete or inaccurate in any way. We hope to go to print in early August.

Event	Established	Disestablished	DPMC Comments
COVID-19 Ministerial Group Ministers with Power to Act on COVID-19 matters (the COVID-19 Ministerial Group)	19 Mar 2020	[?]	
NCMC established	1 Apr 2020	30 Jun 2020	
COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group (COVID-19 Group) under DPMC established	1 Jul 2020		
COVID-19 Group	2 Dec 2020		

confirmed as business unit within DPMC (COVID-19 Group)			
System response functions from COVID-19 Group move to MOH	NA	31 Oct 2022	
Policy and strategy functions from DPMC's COVID-19 move to Ministry of Health; COVID-19 Group comes to an end	NA	29 Mar 2023	

Question 4: We would appreciate more clarity over the mention of ‘workstreams’ in your timeline. Your timeline, 18 Mar 2020 mentions ‘First National Action Plan issued and AoG workstreams initiated’(see [here](#)). What do these relate to?

FYI: We note that the 2022 OAG report ([here](#)) mentions ‘The Operations Command Centre had up to 28 workstreams. Some were set up in line with Pandemic Plan guidance, and others were created from scratch. Workstreams changed depending on what was needed.’ Can you also name the 28 workstreams mentioned in the OAG report?

Question 5: We have found an inconsistency, and wondered if you could shed any light on this. An historical version of your COVID-19 Group website reference (as at October 2020, see bottom para of first page 1 out of 4, see PDF [here](#)) stated that the the COVID-19 Group was ‘**mandated** [[from 1 July 2020](#)] to coordinate, and where necessary lead, the All-of-Government response to the ongoing pandemic’. However, the OAG report *Co-ordination of the all-of-government response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020* (see page 52 [here](#)) states that ‘Cabinet **did not officially** confirm the COVID-19 Group’s role to co-ordinate and lead the response [until December 2020](#).’ Can you advise which is correct? Was this because 2 December 2020 was the date that DPMC was formally funded to lead this work?

Question 6: I have included an image page (and quote) that we are hoping to describe the members of the Quin (see Attachment 2). Do you have any issues with this page and/or do you have a preferred photo of the five members (rather than the four members). Is the description appropriate?

Question 7: We note that DPMC is hosting the all-of-government function to co-ordinate input to the Royal Commission Inquiry (rather than DIA). Can you explain the reason for this? From our experience it is always DIA that administers and coordinates responses to Royal Commissions. Please explain.

If you have any questions or points of clarification, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Ngā mihi,
Wendy

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From: [Wendy McGuinness](#)
To: [Information \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [Arne Larsen](#)
Subject: OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission
Date: Monday, 22 July 2024 9:23:17 am
Attachments: [20240722_p36-37_830am_CND_2nd_ed\[16\].pdf](#)

Kia ora,

Follow up questions to our OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission continued, 'now includes early isolation and early simulations questions'.

As you now we are in the process of updating the second edition of our [COVID-19 Nation Dates](#) book. We have six further questions that relate to Figure 2.3 and two entries we have in the final draft of the book.

14 March 2020

Arrivals expected to self-isolate if symptoms show within 14 days

Cabinet agreed to a package of measures 'to mitigate the worst impacts and ensure the time is used to best prepare New Zealand for a COVID-19 outbreak, including stronger measures at the border'. A category system is put in place that means some travellers (New Zealanders and foreign nationals) will be expected to self-isolate if they show symptoms within 14 day of arrival.

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-03/cvd-20-min-0018-additional-Item-covid-19-strengthening-border-measures.pdf>

25 March 2020

New border control measures for the self-isolation

International arrivals are currently required to self-isolate for 14 days. A 25 March 2020 Cabinet minute puts in place stronger border control measures for the self-isolation of international arrivals. If arrivals do not have a self-isolation plan, they 'will be put in managed isolation in an approved facility'. In addition, every person in self-isolation will be subject to follow-up Police checks and if they are not in the agreed location, 'they will be taken into quarantine and fined.' An earlier paper from the all-of-government group included a report by New Zealand Police. On 17 March 2020, they undertook 50 monitoring visits to people in self-isolation and found two were not home, two displayed mild symptoms and one was non-compliant. By 9 April 2020, all arrivals are required to stay in an approved MIQ facility.

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/Additional-Border-Control-Measures-for-Self-Isolation-of-International-Arrivals.pdf>

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/COVID-19-All-of-Government-Plan-for-Maximising-Compliance-with-Self-Isolation.pdf>

Our questions are:

Question 1: Please provide a copy or link to CAB-2-MIN-0106 (mentioned in

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-03/cvd-20-min-0018-additional-Item-covid-19-strengthening-border-measures.pdf>)?

Question 2: Firstly, are the two entries above correct?

Question 3: From memory, there was three stages; one was isolation if you had symptoms for selected groups of arrivals (the category system), the second must have been the removal of the category system (and related to all arrivals) and the third was isolation (even if you did not have symptoms). We have the first and the third, but when was the second, and can you provide a reference or a statement that we can use as evidence for the entry. In particular, can you provide a paper or an explanation as to the categories mentioned here:

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-03/cvd-20-min-0018-additional-Item-covid-19-strengthening-border-measures.pdf>? Can you advise what the categories were on 14 March and how they changed and when this category system was disestablished? For example, were they revoked/removed when the first COVID-19 Order on 9 April 2020 or with the passing of the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 on the 13 May 2020. Please explain the timeline in detail, and advise when the system was disestablished. We have not been able to find any explanation.

Question 4: Can you advise who are the members of the ‘all-of-government group’ in February and March? Should they be referred to as the ‘COVID-19 all-of-government group’? I noted that the early papers (e.g. before 1 April 2020), that ‘the Quin’ is not mentioned as author, but that the ‘all-of-government group’ is mentioned. See for example, this paper of 18 March 2020, found here <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/COVID-19-All-of-Government-Plan-for-Maximising-Compliance-with-Self-Isolation.pdf>.

Question 5: Is there another group that needs to appear on our diagram, Figure 2.3, attached? What was the group called and when did they meet? I have attached the updated diagram to make clear what we are missing and want to understand.

Question 6: We would like to create a new entry for 5 March 2020. We note that three simulation exercises carried out to test response planning. Can you tell us more about this – *who* instigated it (was it Ministers?), *who* was involved (numbers and organisations), *what* was the nature of the exercise, *how* was it conducted, *where* was it held, *what* was the outcome and *when* it was carried out (e.g. over half-a-day). We will turn your answers into a paragraph for the entry.

The only information we could find on this <https://oag.parliament.nz/2022/covid-19/docs/all-of-govt-response-to-covid.pdf>, pp. 39, 41. It states: ‘From early March 2020, DPMC’s National Security Group organised a series of simulation exercises to test response arrangements under various scenarios (including worst case outbreaks) to help identify gaps in planning.’

Please get back to me if you have any points of clarification.

Many thanks,

Wendy

From: Wendy McGuinness <wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org>

Date: Thursday, 18 July 2024 at 6:51 PM

To: Information [DPMC] <information@dpmc.govt.nz>

Cc: Arne Larsen <al@mcguinnessinstitute.org>, Patrick Shonakan <ps@mcguinnessinstitute.org>

Subject: OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission

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If you have any questions or points of clarification, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Ngā mihi,
Wendy

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From: [Wendy McGuinness](#)
To: [Information \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [Arne Larsen](#)
Subject: Re: OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission
Date: Monday, 22 July 2024 5:22:41 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

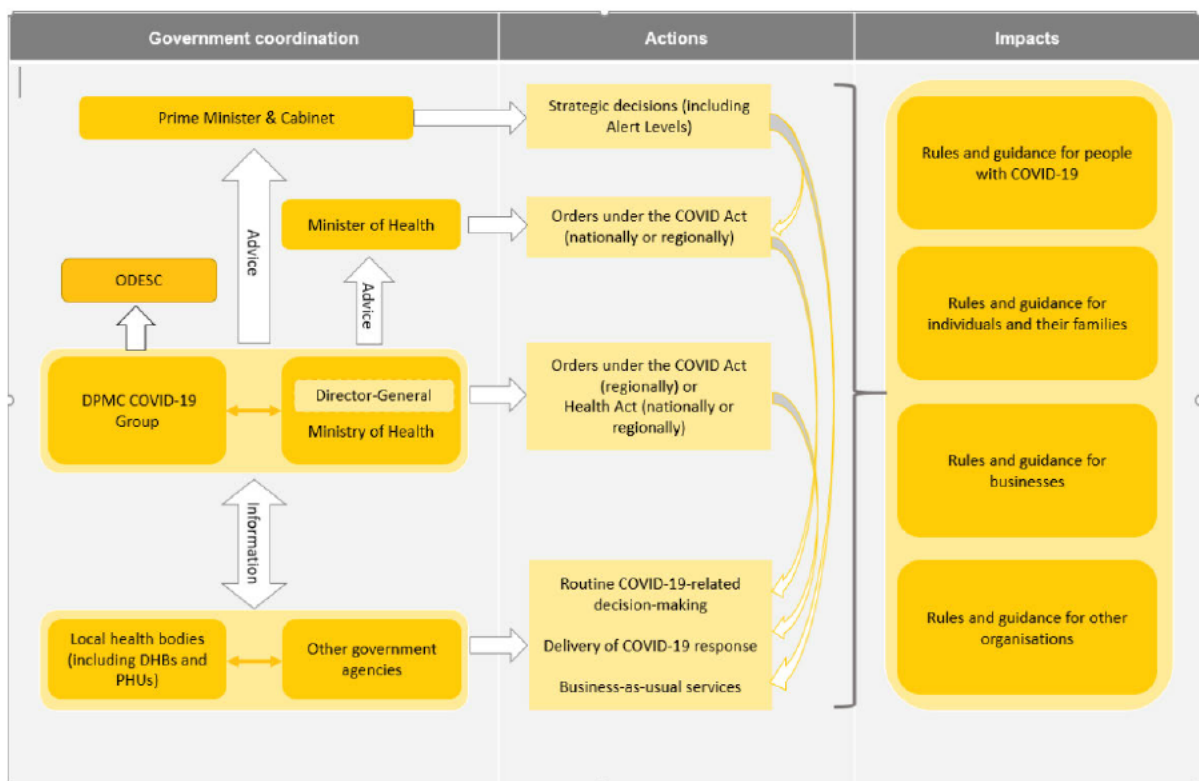
Hi there,

Question 7:

Sorry about this but the editor also asked for the date of this diagram. I would assume 2 November 2020 (given it is sitting in the Briefing [here](#) – page 10). Can you let us know.

Thank you again, Wendy

Figure 1 –Decision making process



From: Wendy McGuinness <wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org>

Date: Monday, 22 July 2024 at 9:20 AM

To: information@dpmc.govt.nz <information@dpmc.govt.nz>

Cc: Arne Larsen <al@mcguinnessinstitute.org>

Subject: OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission

Kia ora,

Follow up questions to our OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission continued, 'now includes early isolation

and early simulations questions’.

As you now we are in the process of updating the second edition of our [COVID-19 Nation Dates](#) book. We have six further questions that relate to Figure 2.3 and two entries we have in the final draft of the book.

14 March 2020

Arrivals expected to self-isolate if symptoms show within 14 days

Cabinet agreed to a package of measures ‘to mitigate the worst impacts and ensure the time is used to best prepare New Zealand for a COVID-19 outbreak, including stronger measures at the border’. A category system is put in place that means some travellers (New Zealanders and foreign nationals) will be expected to self-isolate if they show symptoms within 14 day of arrival. <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-03/cvd-20-min-0018-additional-Item-covid-19-strengthening-border-measures.pdf>

25 March 2020

New border control measures for the self-isolation

International arrivals are currently required to self-isolate for 14 days. A 25 March 2020 Cabinet minute puts in place stronger border control measures for the self-isolation of international arrivals. If arrivals do not have a self-isolation plan, they ‘will be put in managed isolation in an approved facility’. In addition, every person in self-isolation will be subject to follow-up Police checks and if they are not in the agreed location, ‘they will be taken into quarantine and fined.’ An earlier paper from the all-of-government group included a report by New Zealand Police. On 17 March 2020, they undertook 50 monitoring visits to people in self-isolation and found two were not home, two displayed mild symptoms and one was non-compliant. By 9 April 2020, all arrivals are required to stay in an approved MIQ facility.

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/Additional-Border-Control-Measures-for-Self-Isolation-of-International-Arrivals.pdf>

https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/COVID-19_-All-of-Government-Plan-for-Maximising-Compliance-with-Self-Isolation.pdf

Our questions are:

Question 1: Please provide a copy or link to CAB-2-MIN-0106 (mentioned in <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-03/cvd-20-min-0018-additional-Item-covid-19-strengthening-border-measures.pdf>)?

Question 2: Firstly, are the two entries above correct?

Question 3: From memory, there was three stages; one was isolation if you had symptoms for selected groups of arrivals (the category system), the second must have been the removal of the category system (and related to all arrivals) and the third was isolation (even if you did not have symptoms). We have the first and the third, but when was the second, and can you provide a

reference or a statement that we can use as evidence for the entry. In particular, can you provide a paper or an explanation as to the categories mentioned here:

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-03/cvd-20-min-0018-additional-Item-covid-19-strengthening-border-measures.pdf>? Can you advise what the categories were on 14 March and how they changed and when this category system was disestablished? For example, were they revoked/removed when the first COVID-19 Order on 9 April 2020 or with the passing of the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 on the 13 May 2020. Please explain the timeline in detail, and advise when the system was disestablished. We have not been able to find any explanation.

Question 4: Can you advise who are the members of the 'all-of-government group' in February and March? Should they be referred to as the 'COVID-19 all-of-government group'. I noted that the early papers (e.g. before 1 April 2020), that 'the Quin' is not mentioned as author, but that the 'all-of-government group' is mentioned. See for example, this paper of 18 March 2020, found here https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-01/COVID-19_-_All-of-Government-Plan-for-Maximising-Compliance-with-Self-Isolation.pdf.

Question 5: Is there another group that needs to appear on our diagram, Figure 2.3, attached? What was the group called and when did they meet? I have attached the updated diagram to make clear what we are missing and want to understand.

Question 6: We would like to create a new entry for 5 March 2020. We note that three simulation exercises carried out to test response planning. Can you tell us more about this – *who* instigated it (was it Ministers?), *who* was involved (numbers and organisations), *what* was the nature of the exercise, *how* was it conducted, *where* was it held, *what* was the outcome and *when* it was carried out (e.g. over half-a-day). We will turn your answers into a paragraph for the entry.

The only information we could find on this <https://oag.parliament.nz/2022/covid-19/docs/all-of-govt-response-to-covid.pdf>, pp. 39, 41. It states: 'From early March 2020, DPMC's National Security Group organised a series of simulation exercises to test response arrangements under various scenarios (including worst case outbreaks) to help identify gaps in planning.'

Please get back to me if you have any points of clarification.

Many thanks,

Wendy

From: Wendy McGuinness <wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org>

Date: Thursday, 18 July 2024 at 6:51 PM

To: Information [DPMC] <information@dPMC.govt.nz>

Cc: Arne Larsen <al@mcguinnessinstitute.org>, Patrick Shonakan

<ps@mcguinnessinstitute.org>

Subject: OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission

Kia ora,

Our OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission

Thank you for acknowledging our OIA 2024/19. The following request is being treated as a new OIA by the McGuinness Institute, but you might like to treat it as a further request to our original OIA for your records.

As you now we are in the process of updating the second edition of our [COVID-19 Nation Dates](#) book. We have seven further questions:

Question 1: Can you confirm that the COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group, is also known as the COVID-19 Group, and/or alternatively CARG? It would be great to clarify that they are all the same organisation. (see note 2 in Attachment 1)

Question 2: Can you explain the difference between (a) the COVID-19 Group being managed by DPMC, but not being a business unit of DPMC, from 1 July 2020 to 2 December 2020 and (b) being a business unit of DPMC, from 2 December 2020? Is there a better way to describe (a) than we have done here?

FYI: We note that on your timeline (see [here](#)) 1 July 2020 is the date which the COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group (the COVID-19 Group) was established, and this is supported by the 2022 OAG report ([here](#)) which states that on 1 July 2020 the COVID-19 Group was established in DPMC. However, on your website ([here](#)) you also say in December 2020 that the COVID-19 Group was established 'as a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)'.

Question 3: Can you confirm if the dates in the table below are accurate and if possible, provide the disestablishment date of the COVID-19 Ministerial Group [see ?]? If you have any corrections or comments please add them to column 3 of the table below. These are the dates we have included in Figure 2.3, see Attachment 1 (draft pages from our book). Please advise if our figure and text is incomplete or inaccurate in any way. We hope to go to print in early August.

Event	Established	Disestablished	DPMC Comments
COVID-19 Ministerial Group Ministers with Power to Act on COVID-19 matters (the COVID-19 Ministerial Group)	19 Mar 2020	[?]	
NCMC established	1 Apr 2020	30 Jun 2020	
COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group (COVID-19 Group) under DPMC established	1 Jul 2020		
COVID-19 Group confirmed as business unit within DPMC (COVID-19 Group)	2 Dec 2020		
System response functions	NA	31 Oct 2022	

from COVID-19 Group move to MOH			
Policy and strategy functions from DPMC's COVID-19 move to Ministry of Health; COVID-19 Group comes to an end	NA	29 Mar 2023	

Question 4: We would appreciate more clarity over the mention of ‘workstreams’ in your timeline. Your timeline, 18 Mar 2020 mentions ‘First National Action Plan issued and AoG workstreams initiated’(see [here](#)). What do these relate to?

FYI: We note that the 2022 OAG report ([here](#)) mentions ‘The Operations Command Centre had up to 28 workstreams. Some were set up in line with Pandemic Plan guidance, and others were created from scratch. Workstreams changed depending on what was needed.’ Can you also name the 28 workstreams mentioned in the OAG report?

Question 5: We have found an inconsistency, and wondered if you could shed any light on this. An historical version of your COVID-19 Group website reference (as at October 2020, see bottom para of first page 1 out of 4, see PDF [here](#)) stated that the the COVID-19 Group was ‘**mandated [from 1 July 2020]** to coordinate, and where necessary lead, the All-of-Government response to the ongoing pandemic’. However, the OAG report *Co-ordination of the all-of-government response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020* (see page 52 [here](#)) states that ‘Cabinet **did not officially** confirm the COVID-19 Group’s role to co-ordinate and lead the response **until December 2020.**’ Can you advise which is correct? Was this because 2 December 2020 was the date that DPMC was formally funded to lead this work?

Question 6: I have included an image page (and quote) that we are hoping to describe the members of the Quin (see Attachment 2). Do you have any issues with this page and/or do you have a preferred photo of the five members (rather than the four members). Is the description appropriate?

Question 7: We note that DPMC is hosting the all-of-government function to co-ordinate input to the Royal Commission Inquiry (rather than DIA). Can you explain the reason for this? From our experience it is always DIA that administers and coordinates responses to Royal Commissions. Please explain.

If you have any questions or points of clarification, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Ngā mihi,
Wendy

McGuinness Institute Te Hononga Waka

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The McGuinness Institute is a non-partisan think tank working towards a sustainable future, contributing strategic foresight through evidence-based research and policy analysis.

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