



25 September 2024

Wendy McGuinness
McGuinness Institute
wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org

Ref: OIA-2024/25-0205

Dear Wendy

Official Information Act request relating to reports provided to the Quin

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 30 August 2024. You requested:

“Our OIA 2024/29: Request for all reports provided to the Quin between 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2020 from the New Zealand Police

Question 1: Can you provide all the reports that were provided to the Quin when Mike Bush was Strategic Operations Command Lead? We understand the Quin was disestablished on the 30 June 2020. These papers may be with New Zealand Police, but we expect they might have moved across to DPMC with the creation of the COVID-19 Group on 1 July 2020. For this reason, we have also made an OIA request to the New Zealand Police.

Our request includes copies of all reports, briefing and documents, such as:

- Statistics*
- Strategy (including any Strategic Insight reports)*
- Scanning documents*
- Intelligence Summary (INTSUM)*
- Logistic documents*
- And anything else that was provided.*

Additional question: Can we also receive a copy of the letter that appointed Mike Bush as operational commander for the COVID-19 response. I think it was signed by the Prime Minister and was dated on or slightly before the 19 March 2020.”

The Quin was a group of senior officials with the statutory powers and functions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic both as a public health incident (a notifiable infectious disease) and a state of national emergency. It was chaired by the All-of-Government Controller and comprised the Director-General of Health and Director of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, both of whom held statutory functions and powers, the All-of Government Strategy and Policy Lead, and an All-of Government Strategy Operations Command Lead.

From 4 April 2020, Mike Bush was employed by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) in the role of All-of-Government Strategy Operations Command Lead (prior to this he was the Police Commissioner). Your request for a copy of the letter appointing Mike Bush into the role is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of individuals. A copy of the role description that accompanied his employment agreement is however attached.

As highlighted in our previous response, the COVID-19 pandemic generated a significant volume of work that was happening at pace. This was particularly the case during the early days of the pandemic response. A search of our databases confirmed there are


approximately 4,000 plus documents that relate to COVID-19 in some shape or form during the March to June 2020 period. There is no way to identify what reports were provided to the Quin during this period, therefore your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. In reaching this decision, I first considered the factors contained in sections 18A(1) and 18B of the Act. However, I did not consider that taking any of these steps of charging you for the information, extending the time limits or consulting further with you, would allow the request to be answered.

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

This response will be published on DPMC's during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.


Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement