



30 APR 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 28 March 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *'Copies of the approvals/ correspondence between the Minister and MSD regarding emergency benefits under section 64(2) of the SSA'*

On 24 March 2020, the Government issued the Epidemic Preparedness (Epidemic Management – COVID-19) Notice 2020. The notice activates legislative provisions in the Social Security Act 2018 and the Immigration Act 2009 to assist in management of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This notice was issued following Cabinet agreement. Please find attached correspondence with the office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni regarding the Cabinet paper that sought Cabinet agreement.

The names of some individuals are withheld from the attached correspondence under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

You will also note that the contact details of some individuals have been withheld under section 9(2)(k) of the Act in order to reduce the possibility of staff being exposed to phishing and other scams. This is because information released under the Act may end up in the public domain, for example, on websites including the Ministry's own website.

Please note that the following attachments, discussed in the emails released to you, will be proactively released as part of a larger publication of documents about the Government's response to COVID-19. The documents attached to these emails are:

- Ministry of Health report *'Giving an Epidemic Notice and Epidemic Management Notices under the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006'*
- Appendix *'Accessing powers under the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006'*
- Cabinet paper, *'COVID-19: Giving an Epidemic Notice and Epidemic Management notices under the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006'*
- Epidemic Preparedness Notice

- Aide-mémoire, 'COVID-19: Giving an Epidemic Notice and Epidemic Management notices under the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006'

Also attached to the emails released are the Epidemic Preparedness (COVID-19) Notice 2020 and the Epidemic Preparedness (Epidemic Management – COVID-19) Notice 2020. These notices are publicly available on the New Zealand Gazette here: gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2020-go1368 and here: gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2020-go1369 respectively.

The Ministry is currently working to identify how best to use section 64 of the Social Security Act 2018 to support New Zealanders through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding section 64(2) of the Social Security Act 2018, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Bede Hogan
Policy Manager
Income Support Policy

pp

From: s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(k) >

Date: 23 March 2020 at 6:28:43 AM NZDT

To: s 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz,

s 9(2)(k) >

Cc: Justine Cornwall s 9(2)(k) , s 9(2)(a)

Karen Bishop

<s 9(2)(k) >

Subject: FW: Epidemic Paper DRAFT

Hi s 9(2)(a)

As discussed over the weekend, you should be receiving the attached joint briefing soon, and Cabinet is discussing the proposal this morning. A short aide memoire is attached, but in summary:

- The PM has to issue an epidemic notice;
- The PM will also then issue a domestic epidemic management notice;
- That triggers ss 64, 299 and 443 in our Act;
- Cabinet is just being asked to note these developments
- Those sections will help us provide support to more people and modify how we provide benefits;



Cheers

s 9(2)

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From: s 9(2)(a) @pwc.com>

Sent: Sunday, 22 March 2020 11:14 PM

To: s @mbie.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a)

@mbie.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a) @crownlaw.govt.nz>;

s 9(2)(a) @crownlaw.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a)

@pco.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz>;

s 9(2)(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>;

s 9(2)(a) @dia.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a) @crownlaw.govt.nz>;

Justine Cornwall s 9(2)(k) @msd.govt.nz>; Phil Blair Knipe

s 9(2)(k) s 9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>;

s 9(2)(a) @crownlaw.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a)

@msd.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a) @mbie.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a)

@mbie.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a)

@nema.govt.nz>

Cc: s 9(2)(k) @health.govt.nz>; s 9(2)(a) @health.govt.nz>;

@health.govt.nz>; Peter Crabtree s 9(2)(k) @mbie.govt.nz>;

s 9(2)(a) @pwc.com>; s 9(2)(a)

@pwc.com>

Subject: Re: Epidemic Paper DRAFT

Kia ora everyone,

A very sincere thanks to all of you who helped bring this paper together.

Attached are:

- DG's paper to the PM and Ministers involved in the Epidemic Management Notices - with appendices
- Noting Cabinet paper for discussion at Cabinet tomorrow morning - with the A3 and notices attached as appendices

The DG paper is going to the PM first thing tomorrow (via the Minister of Health's office), and the Cabinet paper is being lodged through CabNet.

Thank you again for your help and your patience,

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

PwC | Manager

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a) @pwc.com

PricewaterhouseCoopers New Zealand

On Sat, Mar 21, 2020 at 6:22 PM [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s 9\(2\)\(a\)@pwc.com](mailto:s 9(2)(a)@pwc.com)> wrote:

Kia ora anō everyone,

Thank you all so much for your rapid feedback today! Here is an updated version for the DG Health to review tonight.

Next steps

1. The paper will be shared with the Minister of Health tomorrow morning in the Cabinet paper template.
2. It will be submitted to Cabinet Office tomorrow afternoon (timing TBC).
3. We are working with PCO and CLO to refine the recommendations, and the flow diagram attached (this will become appendix 1). We will also proof-read this document!
4. We will share the Cabinet Office version with you tomorrow afternoon so you can prepare talking points for your Ministers as required.

What's required of you?

- If you have spotted any show-stoppers in this version, please let me know and we will amend these tomorrow morning. Apologies for the tight turnaround, but please send these through to us by **10am tomorrow**.
- The document is already quite lengthy. If on review you think some sections are not required, please also let me know by 10am.

Thank you all for your work on this. We are really grateful for all your help.

[s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

[s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

PwC | Manager

Mobile: [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Email: [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s 9\(2\)\(a\)@pwc.com](mailto:s 9(2)(a)@pwc.com)>

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On Sat, Mar 21, 2020 at 2:15 PM [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s 9\(2\)\(a\)@pwc.com](mailto:s 9(2)(a)@pwc.com)> wrote:

Hello Everyone

Please find attached a rough draft of the Epidemic Notice paper. Note that we are still working on it and our timeframe is to get this to the DG's Office tonight.

We are aware that the legal section requires some work. We would appreciate help from Crown Law with this. Note that we are trying to use the heading structure set out in the paper and adapt the advice received to this. We would appreciate any notice where we have this incorrect.

Please note there are specific comments in the paper where we require additional information or we are still working. We will amend the introduction section shortly.

I would appreciate all feedback to me by 3.40pm today. Please **track all changes**.

Following all changes, this will then be submitted through the approvals process within Health, to be submitted from the DG to the Minister of Health etc.

Please let me know if you have any issues.

Regards

[Redacted]

s 9(2)(a)

PwC | Director

P: s 9(2)(a)

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