

Reference: 20210392

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received by the Treasury on 19 August 2021, after being transferred from the Ministry of Health. You requested:

... how much has the government spend on the pandemic since its start to present day.

Information on expenditure on the pandemic

There is not an existing Treasury document with the information requested, however we do report relevant information publicly on our website. The Treasury maintains a webpage on funding and expenditure on the COVID-19 pandemic: [COVID-19 funding allocation and expenditure \(treasury.govt.nz\)](https://treasury.govt.nz) which is updated regularly.

Information on COVID-19 funding and expenditure

What the government has spent on the pandemic is a mix of re-prioritised existing funding and new funding.

In 2020 the Government signalled \$62.1 billion of new funding to support the COVID-19 response and recovery:

- The Government announced an initial support package on 17 March 2020 totalling \$12.1 billion.
- In Budget 2020, the Government established the \$50 billion COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF).

The CRRF is a funding envelope for budget management purposes and provides an indication of what the Government would be comfortable with spending in response to COVID-19, if necessary.

Overview of some of the significant areas of government spending on the pandemic

Information providing a useful overview of some of what has been spent on the pandemic to date can be found on the Treasury website here: [Quarterly Reporting on COVID-19 Specific Appropriations \(treasury.govt.nz\)](https://treasury.govt.nz)

It should be noted that this information is not a complete picture of expenditure but an overview of some of the significant areas where new appropriations have been created. I encourage you to read the information supporting this data release as it provides important contextual information.

The next update on expenditure will be provided once year-end information (to 30 June 2021) has been quality assured.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Treasury website.

Yours sincerely

Megan Taylor
Manager, Strategic Performance Improvement