

Reference: 20210489

12 November 2021



Dear 

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 18 October 2021. You requested:

*any cost benefit analysis done by or held within the Treasury or such work contracted by the Treasury related to the Covid-19 Alert Level settings and or New Zealand's border settings. I request any such work that has been done since May 1, 2020.*

The Government's response to COVID-19 encompasses a wide range of policies and investments across a wide range of agencies. The Treasury does not hold a 'cost benefit analysis' which captures the entire response programme. Accordingly I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the OIA – *the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.*

The Treasury has done work on the economic and fiscal impacts of recent Alert Level decisions. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) will be proactively releasing Alert Level decision-making Cabinet papers which pull together advice from the Director-General of Health, the Treasury, and other agencies. This is expected to contain information covering your request and will be proactively released on the DPMC website here: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/proactive-release-cabinet-material>.

Some work commissioned to consider the economic impacts of COVID-19, including timing of further border re-opening and the impact of COVID-19 resurgences has previously been released: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/information-release/release-sense-partners-and-infometrics-reports-covid-19>

The Treasury's forecasts for Government finances have been considering the impact of the timing of border re-opening and time spent in Alert Levels: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/budgets/forecasts>

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

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

Yours sincerely,

John Beaglehole  
**Manager, COVID-19 Economic Supports**