

Subject: OIA 2023/01: Update of Overview of New Zealand’s governance structure in relation to COVID-19
Date: Thursday, 2 March 2023 at 11:20:33 AM New Zealand Daylight Time
From: Wendy McGuinness
To: Information [DPMC]
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.jpg

Kia ora,

Our OIA 2023/01: Update of Overview of New Zealand’s governance structure in relation to COVID-19

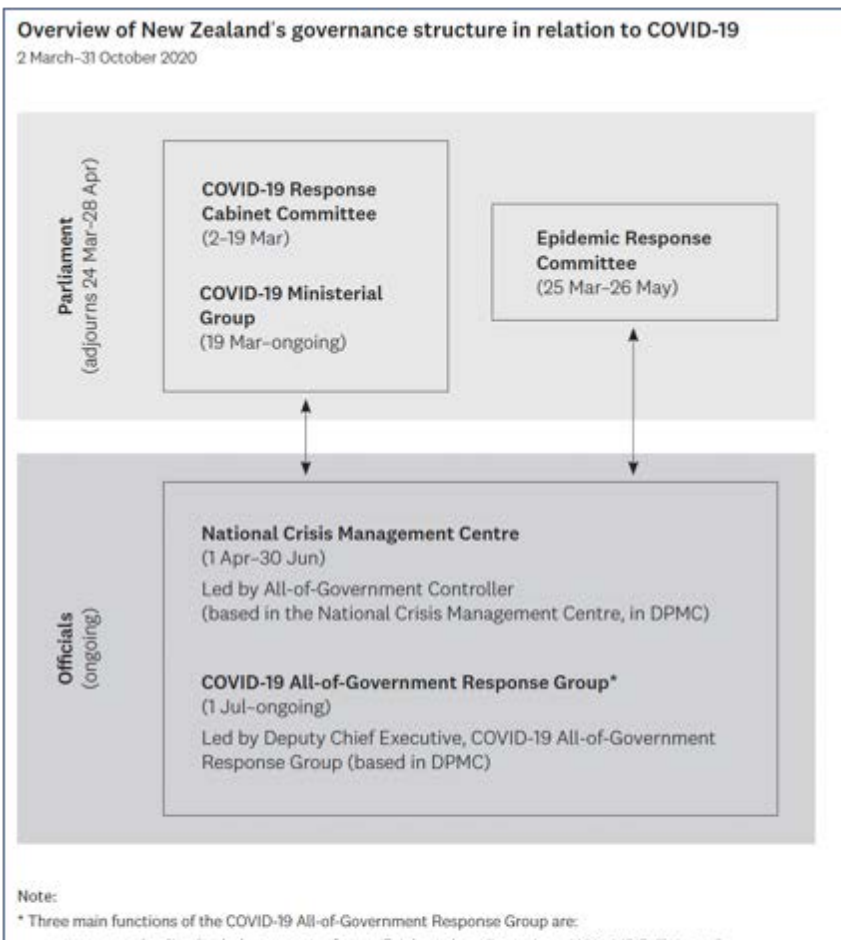
The Institute is currently in the process of publishing a book called *COVID-19 Nation Dates: A timeline of key events*.

We hope this book will be a useful contribution to the public record and a resource for the commissioners undertaking the *Royal Commission of Inquiry into lessons learned from Aotearoa New Zealand’s response to COVID-19 that should be applied in preparation for a future pandemic*. We are happy to share a draft of the book if that is of interest. We hope to publish the book in late March.

It does not contain opinion but attempts to provide a timeline of key events.

As part of this exercise we wish to update a figure we included in an earlier book: [Nation Dates](#) – see Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Image from *Nation Dates* (4th edition) – from 2 March 2020 to 31 October 2020

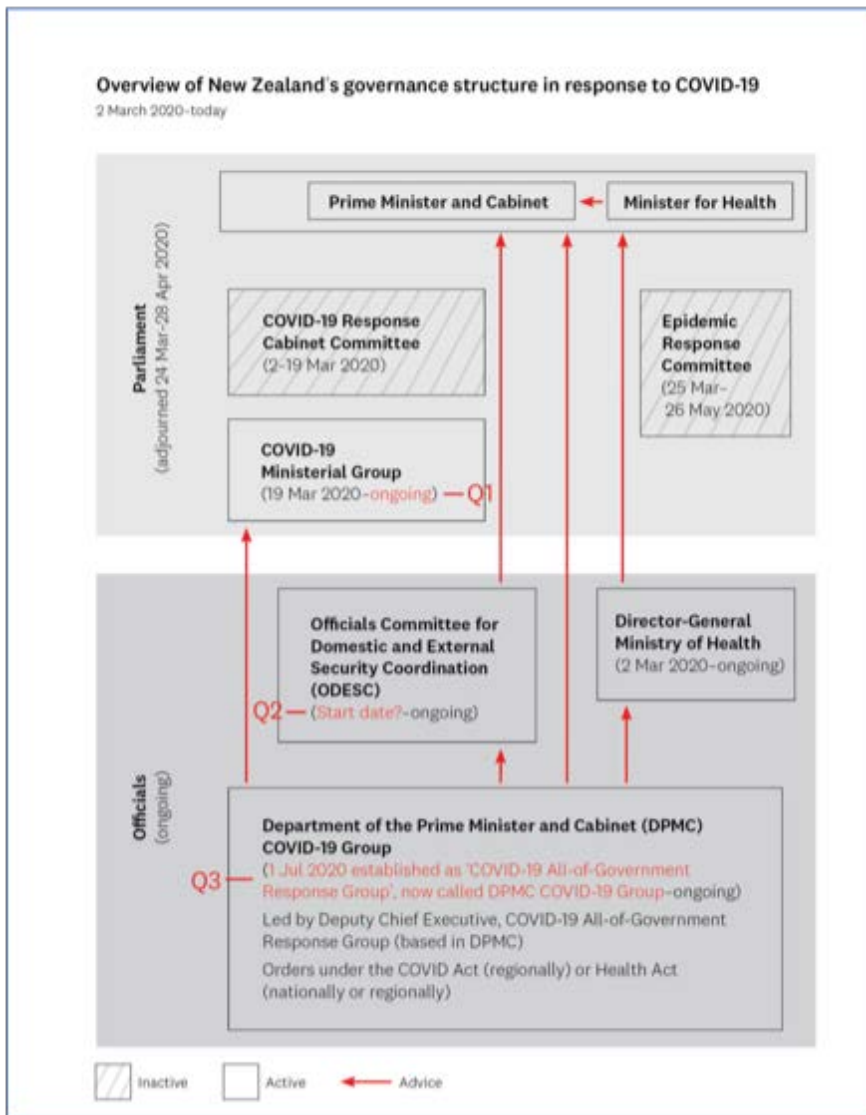


- strategy and policy (includes expertise from officials such as Crown Law, MCH, MoE, Treasury)
- operations and planning (includes expertise from officials such as MOH [contact tracing/testing], NZP [logistics] and NZDF [border control])
- communications and public engagement

- Adapted from DPMC, 2020a; 2020b; pers. comm., 10 November 2020; Stuff, 2020a; Walls, J., 2020a

Our solution is Figure 2, but there are a few outstanding dates and times; and a few points of clarification – see Questions 1-4 (highlighted in Figure 2) and listed further below.

Figure 2: Proposed image for the book: *COVID-19 Nation Dates* – from 2 March 2020 to 2 March 2023



FYI: We have relied on the following document dated 2 November 2020: *Briefing to Incoming Governments COVID-19 Overview*. Figure 3 below can be found on page 10, see <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2020-12/COVID-19%20Overview.pdf> (copied below):

Figure 3: Excerpt from p. 10 of the 2 November 2020: *Briefing to Incoming Governments COVID-19 Overview*

Figure 1 –Decision making process

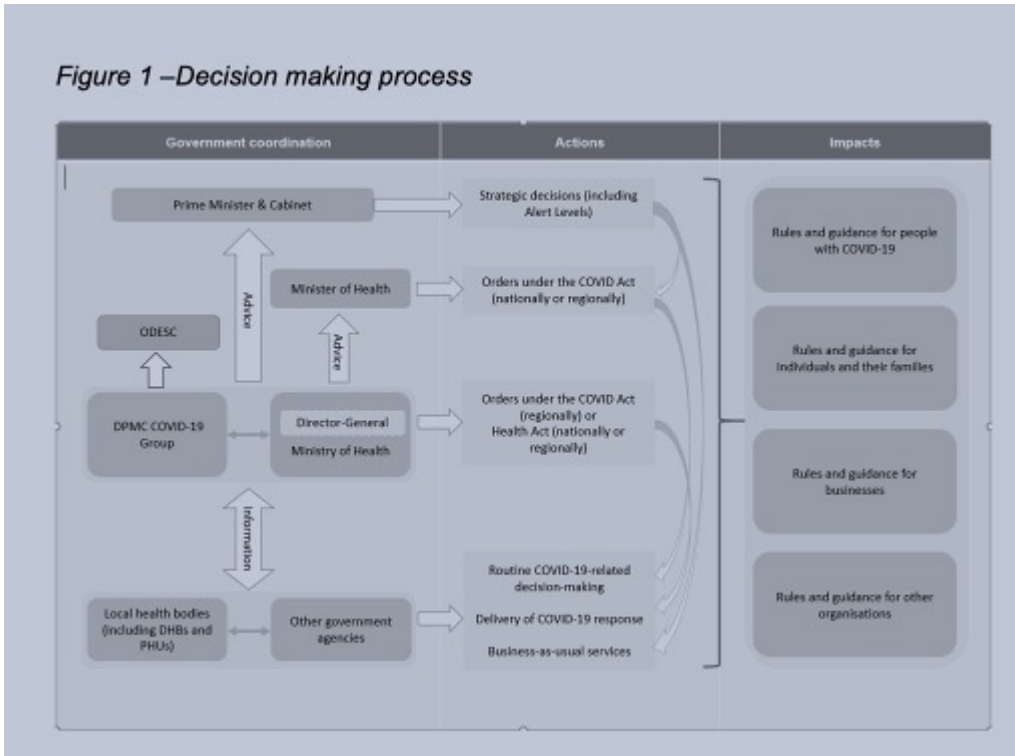


Figure 2: Our specific questions identified on Figure 2 are:

Question 1: Does the *COVID-19 Ministerial Group* still exist? If yes, does it report directly to the Prime Minister and Cabinet? If no, when was it disestablished?

Question 2: When was the [ODESC established](#) (the link was updated Oct 2020 but I think it is earlier)? Has it always had a role in the COVID-19 response? Please explain. Note: It was not in Figure 1, which was created with input from DPMC. We just want to get it correct.

Question 3: We have assumed the DPMC COVID-19 group is exactly the same as the earlier COVID-19 AOG – can you confirm? If yes, when was the name change. If no, what was the difference between COVID-19 AOG became the COVID-19 Group? Note: The above link (see top of page 3 in the 2020 document) – refers to ‘DPMC COVID-19 group (previously known as COVID-19 All of Government Response Group, or AOG)’.

Other questions include:

Question 4: Does the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) still have a role? If yes, please explain. If not, when did that occur and for what reason? Note: It does not appear on your Figure 3 above.

Question 5: If the governance structure has changed, can you advise how it has changed and the reasons for those changes? This might be discussed in a Cabinet Paper or another document. It would be great to receive any supporting cabinet papers, reports etc.

Question 6: Can you provide any other documents or links that might provide an insight into the government’s current governance structure response?

Thank you for your help. Please be aware we are still thinking how best to illustrate the change over time (currently shown in Figure 2). If you have any suggestions on how this might be best illustrated, that would be terrific.

Many thanks,

Wendy

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