

Subject: OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission
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Attachments: Attachment 2 - 20240717 QUIN CND 2nd ed[42].pdf, Attachment 1 - 20240718 p36-37 CND[85].pdf

Kia ora,

Our OIA 2024/28: Clarification on the Quin, the COVID-19 Group and the admin of the Royal Commission

Thank you for acknowledging our OIA 2024/19. The following request is being treated as a new OIA by the McGuinness Institute, but you might like to treat it as a further request to our original OIA for your records.

As you now we are in the process of updating the second edition of our [COVID-19 Nation Dates](#) book. We have seven further questions:

Question 1: Can you confirm that the COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group, is also known as the COVID-19 Group, and/or alternatively CARG? It would be great to clarify that they are all the same organisation. (see note 2 in Attachment 1)

Question 2: Can you explain the difference between (a) the COVID-19 Group being managed by DPMC, but not being a business unit of DPMC, from 1 July 2020 to 2 December 2020 and (b) being a business unit of DPMC, from 2 December 2020? Is there a better way to describe (a) than we have done here?

FYI: We note that on your timeline (see [here](#)) 1 July 2020 is the date which the COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group (the COVID-19 Group) was established, and this is supported by the 2022 OAG report ([here](#)) which states that on 1 July 2020 the COVID-19 Group was established in DPMC. However, on your website ([here](#)) you also say in December 2020 that the COVID-19 Group was established 'as a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)'.

Question 3: Can you confirm if the dates in the table below are accurate and if possible, provide the disestablishment date of the COVID-19 Ministerial Group [see ?]? If you have any corrections or comments please add them to column 3 of the table below. These are the dates we have included in Figure 2.3, see Attachment 1 (draft pages from our book). Please advise if our figure and text is incomplete or inaccurate in any way. We hope to go to print in early August.

Event	Established	Disestablished	DPMC Comments
COVID-19 Ministerial Group Ministers with Power to Act on COVID-19 matters (the COVID-19 Ministerial Group)	19 Mar 2020	[?]	

NCMC established	1 Apr 2020	30 Jun 2020	
COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group (COVID-19 Group) under DPMC established	1 Jul 2020		
COVID-19 Group confirmed as business unit within DPMC (COVID-19 Group)	2 Dec 2020		
System response functions from COVID-19 Group move to MOH	NA	31 Oct 2022	
Policy and strategy functions from DPMC's COVID-19 move to Ministry of Health; COVID-19 Group comes to an end	NA	29 Mar 2023	

Question 4: We would appreciate more clarity over the mention of ‘workstreams’ in your timeline. Your timeline, 18 Mar 2020 mentions ‘First National Action Plan issued and AoG workstreams initiated’(see [here](#)). What do these relate to?

FYI: We note that the 2022 OAG report ([here](#)) mentions ‘The Operations Command Centre had up to 28 workstreams. Some were set up in line with Pandemic Plan guidance, and others were created from scratch. Workstreams changed depending on what was needed.’ Can you also name the 28 workstreams mentioned in the OAG report?

Question 5: We have found an inconsistency, and wondered if you could shed any light on this. An historical version of your COVID-19 Group website reference (as at October 2020, see bottom para of first page 1 out of 4, see PDF [here](#)) stated that the the COVID-19 Group was ‘**mandated** [from 1 July 2020] to coordinate, and where necessary lead, the All-of-Government response to the ongoing pandemic’. However, the OAG report *Co-ordination of the all-of-government response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020* (see page 52 [here](#)) states that ‘Cabinet **did not officially** confirm the COVID-19 Group’s role to co-ordinate and lead the response **until December 2020**.’ Can you advise which is correct? Was this because 2 December 2020 was the date that DPMC was formally funded to lead this work?

Question 6: I have included an image page (and quote) that we are hoping to describe the members of the Quin (see Attachment 2). Do you have any issues with this page and/or do you have a preferred photo of the five members (rather than the four members). Is the description appropriate?

Question 7: We note that DPMC is hosting the all-of-government function to co-ordinate input to the Royal Commission Inquiry (rather than DIA). Can you explain the reason for this? From our experience it is always DIA that administers and coordinates responses to Royal Commissions. Please explain.

If you have any questions or points of clarification, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Ngā mihi,
Wendy

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