



7 October 2025

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0021289

Wendy McGuinness  
Chief Executive  
McGuinness Institute  
Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Wendy McGuinness

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 18 September 2025, and requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

**COVID-19 Wage Subsidy**

1. *Can you provide copies of all cabinet material that relate to all five iterations of the Wage Subsidy Scheme in the discussion paper: Discussion Paper 2025/02 – How to Tell the Difference Between an Emergency and a Crisis and Why it Matters (see our Table A3.1 on p.54)? We note that the link ([here](#)) contains selected cabinet material that MBIE has published, but we were after an extensive list and copies so that we can expand on our earlier work.*
2. *Has MSD implemented any of the recommendations from the Royal Commission of Inquiry's Phase 1 report of the Lessons from COVID-19 to prepare Aotearoa New Zealand for a future pandemic? Please explain with regard to the specific recommendation number, what has been implemented and what has not – and why.*
3. *What other measures, instruments or actions (in addition to those in Question 7 above) have been put in place for the next pandemic?*

**Follow-up on recommendations**

*Attachment 5 is an excel that contains a consolidated list of recommendations from both the Phase One of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned – Te Tira Ārai Urutā (Sheet 2, Table 1 of the excel) and the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) (Sheet 3, Table 2 of the excel). Sheet 1 contains a key, as well as provides links to the documents where the recommendations were sourced from. We are interested in knowing to what extent particular recommendations have been implemented.*

*Can you please:*

4. *Complete the attached excel, in particular Columns E-H of Sheet 2, and Columns C-F of Sheet 3.*
5. *Provide the report of progress against the recommendations of Phase One of the Royal Commission (mentioned in Recommendation 39b of the Royal Commission).*
6. *Advise whether MBIE will be producing a report on progress against the Phase One recommendations for tabling in Parliament (mentioned in Recommendation 39c of the Royal Commission).*

## COVID-19 Wage Subsidy

In our view, it would have been appropriate under section 14 of the OIA to transfer this request to the Treasury because the information you requested is more closely connected with its functions. However, we are aware that you have already made a request to the Treasury, therefore we have not transferred it. We do not hold any additional relevant information that is not already held by the Treasury and therefore these questions are being refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

### Follow-up on recommendations

The Royal Commission of Inquiry is not due to conclude until February 2026. Because Phase Two of the Royal Commission is ongoing, Ministers have not yet asked agencies to action recommendations. MBIE is therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

While MBIE has not been commissioned to undertake follow-up action relating to recommendations from Phase 1, where MBIE has been able to proactively improve its processes it has done so. For example, MBIE continues its work to build more resilient supply chains for critical sectors and key goods by engaging with international partners (through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) supply chain agreement and beyond). MBIE also continues to work in collaboration with other New Zealand government agencies on policy and advice, and engages with the private sector to share data and information, to build a common understanding of supply chain risks and opportunities.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact [OIA@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@mbie.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

  
  
**General Manager - Organisational Performance**  
Strategy and Assurance