


12 October 2021

 Withheld to protect personal privacy

Dear  Withheld to protect personal privacy

I refer to your request dated 23 September 2021, addressed to media@transport.govt.nz, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, seeking

Any written legal advice the Ministry has received in regard to vaccine passports. I request any formal reports with legal advice on vaccine passports, and any emails from legal counsel regarding vaccine passports.

This advice would include the legality of their use in international travel settings, and in a domestic setting, or any other areas of legal interest.

I've used the term vaccine passports. They may be called something different by the Ministry, such as travel health passes, or vaccine certificates, or something else.

The Ministry holds one document covered by the scope of your request.

- *Traveller health declaration system – 30 August 2021 – Draft legal issues paper for agency consultation, NZ Customs Service*

I am withholding that document in reliance on section 9(2)(h) of the Official Information Act, i.e. to maintain legal professional privilege.

Regarding the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am of the opinion that there are no countervailing considerations that make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act to make a complaint about the withholding of information to the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
P O Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

Yours sincerely

 Withheld to protect personal privacy

Brent Lewers
Programme Manager, Reconnecting New Zealanders