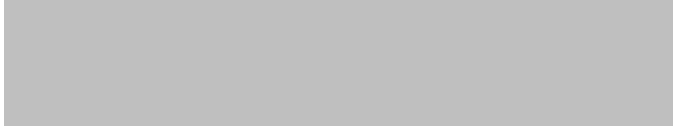





EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

29 May 2023



Ref: OIA-2022/23-0896

Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request: COVID-19 Response Recognition Award

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 26 March 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), which was partially transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 11 May 2023. You requested:

"I would like to know for the COVID-19 Response Recognition Award, how many application or nomination for individual award you have received, how many you have approved and how many you have declined. Also, for the how many application or nomination for organization/community group award you have received, how many you have approved and how many you have declined."

The Government established an award – the COVID-19 Response Recognition Award – to recognise people who have contributed to New Zealand's COVID-19 response. As the Prime Minister is the responsible Minister for the award, the award project was led centrally by the Cabinet Office in DPMC. However, the responsibility for identifying individual recipients, and organisations for the organisational award sat with the agencies with sector knowledge of the workforce groups that were in scope. Not all groups in scope were identified through a registration or application process.

Because of the devolved administration of the award and the different processes followed by individual agencies, DPMC does not hold information on applications or nominations for individual awards or the number of applications or nominations declined. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held.

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DPMC does hold information on the number of individual and organisational awards made to date (the number of individual awards is still being finalised). This is shown in the following table.

<i>Type of award</i>	<i>Number of awards</i>
Individual awards	15,042 as at 11 May 2023
Organisational awards	3,698

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā,



Rachel Hayward
Clerk of the Executive Council