



**Te Tāhū Hauora**  
Health Quality & Safety  
Commission

11 September 2025

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Labour Leader's Office

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received 5 August 2025, asking for:

1. *A copy of the set of “balancing measures” developed by the Ministry of Health and/or Te Whatu Ora, with the support of the Health Quality and Safety Commission (HQSC), to mitigate unintended consequences and gaming associated with the government’s current health targets.*
2. *Any documents, briefings, meeting minutes, or correspondence (including emails and internal memos) referencing:*
  - a. *The development of these balancing measures;*
  - b. *The involvement of the HQSC in their development or implementation;*
  - c. *Any assessment of the risk of gaming or unintended consequences arising from the targets.*
3. *Any documents relating to the recommendation made by the Delivery Unit for HQSC to have an active assurance or assessment role, including but not limited to:*
  - a. *Advice received or provided on this proposal;*
  - b. *Any decision, consideration, or discussion by the Ministry or Te Whatu Ora regarding assigning this role to HQSC;*
  - c. *Correspondence with or relating to Richard Hamblin on this matter.*
4. *Any implementation plans or policy documents that describe how the balancing measures or any independent assurance mechanisms will be operationalised.*

*and;*

1. *Copies of any information since December 2024 that outlines the role that the HQSC will take or is taking, if any, in assessing, monitoring, evaluating, or providing on assurance on the Government's health targets.*
2. *I request any information that the HQSC has provided on the Government's health targets to either the Ministry of Health or Te Whatu Ora since December 2024.*

### Response

The Commission has identified the attached correspondence and documents that fit with your request.

Redactions have been made under s 9(2)(a) in order to protect privacy and 9(2)(f)(iv) where information provided refers to issues under active consideration by the Minister.

The following documents have been withheld under s9(2)(g)(i):

- Ministry of Health draft briefing *Managing the potential for health target gaming and unintended consequences*
- Ministry of Health draft document *Health targets: monitoring for unintended consequences*

As previously agreed, to avoid duplication, the Commission's response has only identified documents that the Commission has either shared, or that have Commission comments included.

You are entitled, under section 28(2) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Martin Thomas  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
**Health Quality & Safety Commission**



