



## Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of the Minister for COVID-19 Response, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall:

### Testing Innovation Weekly Updates

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Testing Innovation Weekly Update – 1 July 2022

**Title of paper:** Testing Innovation Weekly Update – 8 July 2022

**Title of paper:** Testing Innovation Weekly Update – 23 July 2022

**Title of paper:** Testing Innovation Weekly Update – 29 July 2022

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

### Key to redaction code:

- 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.



# Aide-Mémoire

## Testing Innovation Weekly Update

<b>To:</b>	Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall Minister for COVID-19 Response		
<b>From:</b>	Alice Hume, Head of Strategy & Policy	<b>Date:</b>	1/07/2022
<b>Briefing Number:</b>	DPMC-2021/22-2394	<b>Security Level:</b>	<del>[IN CONFIDENCE]</del>

### Purpose

1. This aide memoire provides a brief update on the testing innovation work programme.

### Regulatory workstream

#### *Rapid review*

2. A provider has been engaged for the COVID-19 Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) regulatory framework review. The review will begin Monday 4 July with advice on any recommendations arising from the rapid review expected late-August.
3. Governance arrangements have been finalised with a governance group made up of Ministry of Health (MoH) and Health New Zealand (HNZ) General Managers set up to oversee the project. Their first meeting is scheduled for Friday 1 July.

#### *Wider regulatory review*

4. MoH is continuing its desktop scan of relevant documents on testing and innovation.
5. Following the first innovation and futures workshop, which included a session on regulatory frameworks for testing innovation, MoH is considering how it can inform the development of guiding principles for the regulation of COVID-19 testing and innovation. In particular, workshop participants discussed how regulation can be performance-oriented and permissive while ensuring products are safe and effective, and that balancing a number of priorities in the right way is the best way to support innovation with regulation.

### Innovation and futures workstream

6. On Wednesday 29 June, officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE), MoH, and HNZ convened the first of two workshops, facilitated by PwC. Around forty attendees from across the health and the innovation sectors were in attendance.

7. Following scene setting – including COVID-19 testing and why we need to innovate, and an overview of the New Zealand testing system and innovation system – the workshop moved into smaller facilitated discussions. The first session covered New Zealand's testing innovation system and the second session covered the regulatory framework underpinning the testing innovation system. Participants engaged on the purposes, opportunities, and barriers in these systems and looked at what shifts would be required to get to 'good'.
8. The second workshop is scheduled for 8 July, and officials are continuing to finalise the agenda in light of the discussions from the first workshop. DPMC will report back to you after that workshop, prior to the interim report being submitted to you.

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