



## 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

To:	Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall Minister for COVID-19 Response		
From:	Simon Dunkerley, Policy Manager, COVID-19 Group	Date:	29/07/2022
Briefing Number:	DPMC-2021/22-2586	Security Level:	<del>[IN CONFIDENCE]</del>

### Purpose

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

### Regulatory workstream

#### Rapid review

2. The rapid review is assessing the current regulatory and operational arrangements for Point-of-Care-Testing (POCT), under the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Point-of-care Tests) Order 2021 (POCT Order), to make recommendations on improvements. It is also developing options for a POCT regulatory framework that is not dependent on an Epidemic Notice to make orders under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 Act (the COVID-19 Act).
3. s9(2)(h)  
[Redacted text]
4. Allen + Clarke is independently reviewing the current POCT regulatory system, and its final report will be provided to Te Whatu Ora and the Manatū Hauora in the week commencing 1 August (with a draft report due 29 July).
5. Manatū Hauora will provide a Health Report to you in mid-August containing a full analysis of the options identified and recommendations for the regulation of POCT in the absence of an Epidemic Notice.

#### Wider regulatory review

6. The wider review of New Zealand's testing and innovation systems regulatory framework remains underway. It is continuing to take onboard insights from the rapid review and innovation and futures workstream, and is considering whether changes should be incorporated within the development of the Therapeutic Products Bill.

## Innovation and futures workstream

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7. On 26 July, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), Te Whatu Ora, Manatū Hauora, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) met in a final workshop with some survey respondents to discuss the survey feedback received and the ideal state of our testing innovation system. The survey was sent to both public and private sector stakeholders, with attendance at the workshop from both sectors as well. While uptake on the survey was low, the responses received (and discussed in the workshop) were informative.
8. Survey responses considered what went well and what could have been better in our pandemic response, why testing was implemented in their organisations, what opportunities there are for testing innovation, and what they would like to see in the future in regard to testing.
9. DPMC is expecting a final report from PwC in the week commencing 1 August, and is intending to provide you with a final report in mid-August

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