NZDSOS
NEW ZEALAND DOCTORS SPEAKING OUT WITH SCIENCE

March 30, 2026

Dear MCNZ Chair, Rachelle Love

We write again regarding our letters hand-delivered on 3 October 2025, addressed to you as Chair of Medical Council of New Zealand. These letters, written by members of the public and by doctors of NZDSOS, were entrusted to Kiri Rikihana, who assured us they would reach you.

Having received no acknowledgement, we followed up by email on 24 November 2025. Later that day we received a response from the Professional Standards Team advising us to "please allow 7–10 business days" for a reply. No reply came.

More recently on 28 January 2026, we wrote again and received an automated message advising that a response would be provided within 15 working days. That timeframe has now well passed.

We are therefore asking respectfully when can we expect a substantive response addressing the serious concerns raised in our correspondence?

Those concerns relate to patient harm, professional integrity, and the role of the Medical Council during the c-19 response. Many New Zealanders believe they have been injured by the covid response and feel unheard. Many doctors feel that legitimate clinical questions were suppressed rather than engaged with. The absence of meaningful engagement from the Medical Council risks further undermining confidence in both the Council and the medical profession which you oversee.

We are aware, including through private conversations and information shared by individuals familiar with internal workings, that there were, at various points, questions and concerns raised within the Council about aspects of the covid response and its implementation. If that is so, then silence now only compounds public mistrust. If there are constraints on what may be said publicly, we would welcome clarity about that.

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We are relieved to understand that you may have a deeper understanding of this period than has been publicly acknowledged. If so, this presents an opportunity to guide the profession from the c-19 complexities as occurred over the last six years, from a perspective beyond that of the Medical Council.

- What would a constructive way forward look like?
- How can the Medical Council help restore trust rather than deepen division?
- How can doctors and the public be reassured that ethical scrutiny will not be abandoned again in a future time of crisis?

We would like to meet with you personally, to engage respectfully, and to work toward solutions that protect patients and uphold the integrity of the profession.

As you are aware, we have made repeated, documented attempts to engage constructively. The continued unanswered correspondence risks being seen as avoidance, which deepens our concern and further erodes trust. The growing record of our letters and emails reflect our good faith attempts to engage and we remain ready to meet at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to your reply and then to meeting in person.

Yours sincerely,

The Doctors of NZDSOS
New Zealand Doctors Speaking Out with Science