

14 February 2022

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: H202200644

Ref: § 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 26 January 2022 for:

"I'd like to know why the government is fudging the numbers and not telling the public the full story on the risks and adverse effects of this so called "vaccine". Real vaccines don't kill people in the way this experimental drug does. Why are we being forced and told every single day to "get vaxxed and furthermore jab our precious kids" when this data is being purposely hidden from the public. How long has the NZ government known about these actual adverse effects and what are you doing to advise the public of then true risks? <https://hatchardreport.com/pfizer-vaccine-unknown-adverse-effects/> "

The link you attached to your request refers to the publication of a report, *Cumulative Analysis of Post-Authorization Adverse Event Reports of PF-07302048 (BNT162B2) Received Through 28-Feb-2021*, in the United States. The Ministry received several requests about this document and has published a comprehensive response that explains its genesis and relevance to New Zealand. It is publicly available at: www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/information-release/h202117570_response_0.pdf. Therefore, your request is refused in part under section 18(d) of the Act on the grounds that information that responds to it is publicly available.

Turning to your specific points, the Ministry rejects the premise of your questions which are based on misinformation. While the Act allows people to ask for information from government departments and Ministers, there is no obligation for agencies to create new information, compile information they do not hold, prove an opinion, or respond to hypothetical questions. Rather than requesting official information, your questions appear designed to engage in a debate about the Government's COVID-19 vaccination programme. The Act does not support requests where statements are put to an agency for response, couched as requests for official information. Your request is also refused in part under section 18(g) on the grounds that the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

However, what I can advise is that the COVID-19 vaccines are not experimental and have received provisional consent from Medsafe under the Medicines Act 1981. Information about the vaccine approval process is available at: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-approval.asp.

The High Court considered the Government's decision to require people in some occupations to vaccinated and found these to be justifiable limitations under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. Its judgments are publicly available at: www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/2021-NZHC-3012.pdf and www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/assets/cases/2021/2021-NZHC-2526.pdf.

Finally, all adverse effects following immunisation (AEFI) reported to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) at the University of Otago are regularly published on the Medsafe website and thoroughly investigated. They are available at: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp.

While reporting is voluntary, anyone – doctor, nurse, pharmacist, patient, government agency, family member or member of the public – can make a report to CARM and the form to do is available at: <https://report.vaccine.covid19.govt.nz/s/>. Both CARM and Medsafe encourage people to make reports. To date, two deaths investigated by CARM, Medsafe and the COVID-19 Independent Safety Monitoring Board have been linked to the vaccine and are before the coroner. Information about this is available at: www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/statement-covid-19-vaccine-independent-safety-monitoring-board.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Jan Torres
Acting Manager, OIA Services
Office of the Director-General