

14 February 2022

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s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202200127

Tēnā koe s 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 10 January 2022 for information regarding Ministry of Education (MOE) exemptions for vaccination passes. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

"How many MOE exemptions applications have you received for vaccine pass?"

How many MOE exemptions have been approved for vaccine pass?

How many MOE exemptions have been declined for vaccine pass?

How many MOE exemptions have been approved for politicians vaccine pass?"

The Ministry does not record the profession of applicants, therefore your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

While the Ministry does not record the profession of applicants, the temporary medical exemption application form does ask applicants whether they are subject to a Vaccination Order (VO). Accordingly, under section 13 of the Act, the Ministry is able to confirm the number of temporary medical exemptions which have been applied for by workers who have stated they are subject to a VO. These figures are provided below and are correct as of 18 January 2022.

- 453 workers covered by a VO have applied for a Temporary Medical Exemption.
- 231 of these applications have been approved.
- 118 of these applications have been declined.
- The remaining applications were either still being processed or have been returned as incomplete.

Please note that these figures relate to all workforces covered by a VO, so are not specific to the education sector. As these figures are based on self-reporting from applicants, it is possible that other applications have been received from people working within sectors where they are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 but who have not indicated on the application form that they are covered by a VO.

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, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Astrid', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Astrid Koornneef
Director
National Immunisation Programme