

7 March 2022

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s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H202200823

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) received by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 3 February 2022. You asked:

*“Could you please provide all the information and data used to determine the eligible population statistic that determines how many of the population is eligible and taking the COVID vaccines. The date you determined the amount of the eligible population.”*

Within the context of the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme, the eligible population is defined as anyone over 5 years old in New Zealand. Calculations in relation to the eligible population are based on Health Service User (HSU) data.

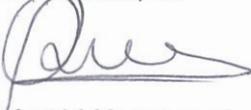
The HSU population estimate provides information about the number of people in New Zealand who used health services in the 2020 calendar year. The HSU population estimate was generated on 5 July 2021 from data compiled as at 31 December 2020. Where percentage uptake figures are reported for COVID-19 vaccinations, the denominator used is drawn from the HSU population estimate. The HSU dataset allows for vaccine coverage rates to be reported by ethnicity while ensuring the numerator and denominator are consistent.

More information about the HSU dataset can be found on the *HSU Population* tab of the downloadable Excel Spreadsheet under the *Details of vaccination data* section of the Ministry website here: [www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-vaccine-data](http://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-vaccine-data).

I trust this fulfils your request. 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](mailto: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 of Health website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases).

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Koornneef  
**Director**  
**National Immunisation Programme**