

7 March 2022

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H202201556

Dear s 9(2)(a)

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for information about COVID-19 and adverse events. On 17 February 2022, your request was transferred from the New Zealand Police to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for response. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

#### *1 - Why are so many people suffering adverse events and death after COVID19 vaccinations?*

All medicines have risks and benefits. The side effects of Comirnaty are provided in the data sheet and consumer medicine information. The greater the number of people taking a medicine the higher the number of people who have side effects. The data sheet is publicly available and can be found on the following link: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/c/comirnatyinj.pdf](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/c/comirnatyinj.pdf). The link for consumer medicine information can also be found on the following link here: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/consumers/cmi/c/comirnaty.pdf](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/consumers/cmi/c/comirnaty.pdf).

Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) including information relating to deaths, can be found in Medsafe's safety reports, which is publicly available at: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/safety-report-40.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/safety-report-40.asp). Please note that as stated in the report for the vast majority of these reports there is no evidence that the death was related to vaccination.

#### *2 - Why are so many of our fittest sportspeople collapsing and suffering myocarditis, heart attacks and death post-vaccination?*

There is no evidence from the reports sent to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring that sports people have been disproportionately experiencing side effects to Comirnaty.

#### *3 - Why have the vaccine manufacturers withheld ingredients? Undisclosed ingredients are illegal and involve the deception of the public*

This part of your request is asking for the Ministry to comment and provide an opinion on vaccine manufacturers. It is important to note that the Act allows people to ask for information. Please note that the Act does not require the Ministry to create new information, compile information it does not hold, or in the case of this part of your request, to provide or prove an opinion. The Act does not support requests where a comment or a hypothetical statement is put to it and Medsafe is asked to comment on it, couched as a request for official information. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by Medsafe nor the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

Further information on misinformation can be found on the Unite Against COVID-19 website: [www.covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/misinformation-scams-and-online-harm](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/misinformation-scams-and-online-harm).

Additional information about the vaccine can be found on the Ministry website at the following links:

- The Immunisation Handbook (chapter 5): [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/immunisation-handbook-2020/5-coronavirus-disease-covid-19](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/immunisation-handbook-2020/5-coronavirus-disease-covid-19). This also provides references to scientific studies conducted regarding COVID-19 and the vaccine.
- The vaccine datasheet: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/c/comirnatyinj.pdf](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/c/comirnatyinj.pdf).
- Ministry webpage regarding vaccine safety and efficacy: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-effectiveness-and-protection](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-effectiveness-and-protection).
- Scientific and technical information available on the Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-resources-and-tools/covid-19-science-news](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-resources-and-tools/covid-19-science-news).

COVID-19: How the Pfizer vaccines works is available at: [www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-how-pfizer-vaccine-works#:~:text=The%20vaccine%20works%20by%20showing,carrying%20instructions%20o%20our%20cells](http://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-how-pfizer-vaccine-works#:~:text=The%20vaccine%20works%20by%20showing,carrying%20instructions%20o%20our%20cells). *4 - Why have independent scientific reports of Graphene Oxide and other contaminants not been publically investigated?*

There are no credible reports of graphene oxide being found in Comirnaty.

*5 - Why are the various batches of the vaccine clearly different? As per VAERS data.*

All medicines are made to very strict criteria to ensure that there are no material differences between batches. No concerns have been raised by any medicine's regulator about any difference between batches of Comirnaty to date. It is a requirement for COVID-19 vaccine suppliers to send Medsafe Certificates of Analysis (CoAs) for the shipments of vaccines to New Zealand. The CoA details the quality control testing criteria the vaccine needs to meet before it can be released for distribution and the test results for that particular batch. These certificates of analysis are then checked by the Ministry's logistics quality representative to ensure that they meet all test specifications. These checks include data to demonstrate that the temperature conditions during shipping to New Zealand met storage specifications. There is also a requirement for suppliers to provide Medsafe with batch certificates from international independent testing authorities, such as the European Union Official Control Authority Batch Release (OCABR), upon 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.

Yours sincerely



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