

22 March 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H202201652

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 19 February 2022 for information regarding COVID-19 vaccine exemptions. Your request is responded to in turn:

*How many applications for Covid vaccination exemptions have been received by the panel?*

*How many of these have been approved, declined, or are under consideration?*

As at 16 March 2022, 2465 applications for a Temporary Medical Exemption (TME) have been processed by the Ministry. Of these:

Of the 2465 applications for a TME that have been considered by the Temporary Medical Exemption Panel.

- 777 have been granted
- 813 have been declined

An additional 621 applications have been returned as incomplete and have not been considered by the Temporary Medical Exemption Panel.

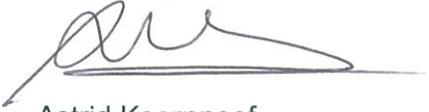
*Are any of these for renewal of a previously granted exemption?*

The Ministry does not have a record of this information and there is no requirement under the Act for an agency to create or compile information it does not hold. Therefore, this part of 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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AK', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Astrid Koornneef

**Director**

**National Immunisation Programme**