

16 May 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H202200509

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 26 January 2022 for:

“All information related to incentives offered to health care providers to vaccinate patients. Incentives from The MoH and pharmaceutical company’s”

Health care providers responsible for administering COVID-19 vaccines are not offered incentives by pharmaceutical companies. The supply of COVID-19 vaccines is managed via consultations between the New Zealand government and the supplier. Health care providers consult with the New Zealand government regarding the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, generally via district health boards (DHBs), but do not have a direct relationship with vaccine suppliers.

Organisations involved in the vaccination rollout including general practices (GPs), pharmacies, community trusts and non-government organisations all receive some form of payment from the Ministry for their work delivering vaccines.

There are many ways the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) contracts and makes payments for the provision of COVID-19 vaccine services to New Zealand. Two examples of these are below:

1. Direct Ministry contracts:

The Ministry contracts directly with providers to make payments based on COVID-19 vaccination targets. Some of these payments are one-off-up-front activities, such as reaching specific communities, giving support and advice, or for time and materials at a vaccine clinic. Some direct Ministry contracts are also a price per dose contract, where the supplier is paid in proportion to the number of doses administered.

2. Ministry funds to DHBs:

DHBs will claim against the Ministry for COVID-19 vaccination expenses. This will often include claiming for services provided themselves, payments made to other organisations (for example, for direct vaccine delivery services) or for bulk funding to train or reach segments of the community and other associated costs. These claims will all be made on an invoice basis. DHBs can also commission on a price per dose (PPD) basis and this funding is passed from the Ministry to DHBs, and on to service providers.

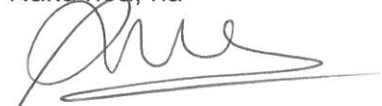
General practice clinics that provide primary care are paid to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine. General practice clinics are funded in one of two ways, either through an individual contract with their DHB or via PPD. PPD is the most common funding method.

There is a set PPD rate of \$36.05 paid to participating primary care providers (including pharmacies) during normal business hours, with a rate of \$48.72 PPD outside of normal hours (ie between 8pm and 8am, and between 5pm Friday and 8am Monday, and including public holidays). The cost of vaccinations is covered by central government, via the COVID-19 Response and Recovery fund.

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 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Koornneef

Director

National Immunisation Programme