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20 September 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022010851

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 Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 23 August 2022 for information regarding the AstraZeneca vaccine. Each part of your request is responded to below.

The Governments purchase of AstraZeneca. How many doses were purchased?

New Zealand has an agreement in place to purchase 7.6 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Further information on the purchase of AstraZeneca's vaccine can be found on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccines-available-new-zealand/covid-19-purchasing-vaccines

What was the cost?

Details of the agreement with AstraZeneca are withheld in full under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(b)(ii) where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, and
- section 9(2)(ba)(i) to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source.

Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time

How many doses have been used?

As of 30 August 2022, an estimated 9,075 doses of AstraZeneca have been administered as primary, booster and secondary boosters.

Please provide me with the documents discussing why AstraZeneca will no longer be available in New Zealand from 5 September 2022?

I have identified one document within scope of this part of your request, titled '*Briefing – COVID-19 Vaccine Portfolio Update – Concluding the AstraZeneca Advance Purchase Agreement*'. Excerpts of this document have been released in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act, with information deemed out of scope of your request excluded. Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

What will happen with the stock on hand at 5th September 2022?

Manatū Hauora does not hold expired stock. Expired vaccines are disposed of in line with any manufacturer, contractual and legislative requirements.

Disposal of any unused doses in New Zealand, which expire on 5 September 2022, is managed by Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand's National Immunisation Programme.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Steve Waldegrave
**Associate Deputy Director-General
Strategy, Policy and Legislation**

Briefing

COVID-19 Vaccine Portfolio Update – Concluding the AstraZeneca Advance Purchase Agreement

Date due to MO: 8 July 2022 **Action required by:** 15 July 2022

Security level: Commercially Sensitive **Health Report number:** HR 20221014

To: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister
 Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance
 Hon Andrew Little, Minister of Health
 Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Hon Peeni Henare, Associate Minister of Health
 Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Minister for COVID-19 Response
 Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Health

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Maree Roberts	Deputy Director-General, Strategy, Policy and Legislation	s 9(2)(a)
Allison Bennett	Acting Group Manager, Strategy, Policy and Legislation	s 9(2)(a)

Minister's office to complete:

- Approved
 Decline
 Noted
 Needs change
 Seen
 Overtaken by events
 See Minister's Notes
 Withdrawn

Comment:

COVID-19 Vaccine Portfolio Update – Concluding the AstraZeneca Advance Purchase Agreement

Security level: Commercially Sensitive **Date:** 8 July 2022

To: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister
Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance
Hon Andrew Little, Minister of Health
Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon Peeni Henare, Associate Minister of Health
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Minister for COVID-19 Response
Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Health

Purpose of report

1. This paper provides an update on the management of the Advance Purchasing Agreement (APA) with AstraZeneca for its COVID-19 vaccine. This paper seeks your agreement to:
 - b. conclude the use of AstraZeneca in the COVID-19 Vaccine Immunisation Programme (CVIP).

Summary

3. In December 2020, New Zealand signed an APA with AstraZeneca to secure access to 7.6 million doses of its viral vector COVID-19 vaccine as part of a broader portfolio of potential COVID-19 vaccine candidates.
4. New Zealand has since implemented a COVID-19 Immunisation Programme (the Programme) primarily based around the Pfizer vaccine. Small volumes of AstraZeneca's vaccine have been made available as an alternative, non-mRNA COVID-19 vaccine since November 2021.
9. The Programme has noted the remaining doses in New Zealand are due to expire in September 2022. The programme is planning for no further AstraZeneca deliveries and assurance that those who previously received or are eligible for AstraZeneca have access to Novavax or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines.

Recommendations

We recommend you:

Phasing out AstraZeneca from the vaccination programme

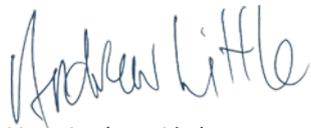
- m) **Note** that AstraZeneca has been made available domestically since November 2021 when 100,000 doses were imported from Australia [HR 20212271 refers]
- n) **Note** that the existing doses will expire on 5 September 2022 and New Zealand does not currently have access to further doses (additional purchase arrangements would be required)
- o) **Note** that demand for AstraZeneca's vaccine is low and Ministers have previously agreed to Novavax being the non-mRNA option in the portfolio longer term [HR 20220023 refers]
- p) **Agree** that officials phase out AstraZeneca from the programme, primarily through proactive communications and engagement with the health sector **Yes** / **No**

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister

...../...../.....



Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Health

8/7/22

Hon Grant Robertson

Minister of Finance

...../...../.....

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Foreign Affairs

...../...../.....

Hon Peeni Henare

Associate Minister of Health

...../...../.....

Hon Aupito William Sio

Associate Minister of Health

...../...../.....

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Minister for COVID-19 Response

...../...../.....



Dr Ashley Bloomfield

Director-General of Health

7/07/2022

COVID-19 Vaccine Portfolio Update – Concluding the AstraZeneca Advance Purchase Agreement

Background

Vaccine Portfolio utilisation to date

1. The four COVID-19 vaccines in our vaccine portfolio (supplied by Pfizer, Novavax, AstraZeneca, and Janssen) have been utilised in different ways to support our national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Vaccine Ministers have agreed to maintain an mRNA-based COVID-19 immunisation programme in 2022 through the primary use of the Pfizer vaccine, but previously agreed to the use of AstraZeneca's vaccine as an alternative non-mRNA vaccine for those hesitant or unable to receive Pfizer from November 2021.
3. The programme has managed all 7.6 million doses of the AstraZeneca's vaccine purchased through our APA as part of the portfolio approach. These volumes were agreed to in the early stages of the pandemic to secure access to doses, subject to successful development.

Phasing out AstraZeneca doses from the programme

19. As agreed by Ministers, the programme has maintained a small volume of AstraZeneca doses to support primary and booster doses (off-label) to those unable or hesitant to receive the Pfizer mRNA vaccine. As of 27 June 2022, 8,800 AstraZeneca doses have been administered.¹
20. In the Programme, 5,400 doses of AstraZeneca's vaccine remains in central storage with a shelf life until 5 September 2022. Officials judge this is sufficient to provide the remaining primary and boosters doses to those who have received at least one dose of AstraZeneca.
21. As the remaining supply of AstraZeneca doses held in New Zealand is set to expire in September 2022 and no further deliveries are planned, it is recommended officials begin planning to phase out the domestic use of AstraZeneca from the Programme.
22. The Programme estimates a small number of people who are eligible but have yet to complete their courses of AstraZeneca may be affected.² Planning will be centred on ensuring they are notified of the intended change and encouraged to complete their vaccination before it takes effect.
23. The Programme will also seek to support vaccination providers and sites in managing the phasing. Changes to the booking systems, training requirements and clinical guidance as required will be made in coordination with the proposed timeline.

¹ As of 21 June 2022, a total of 8,800 AstraZeneca has been administered by way of 1st primary (3,312), 2nd primary (3,616), 3rd primary (27) and booster (1,845)

24. **Officials are seeking your agreement to phase out the AstraZeneca from the Programme**, primarily through proactive communications and engagement with the health sector.
25. Officials note with the phasing out of AstraZeneca's vaccine from the programme, Novavax (as a non-mRNA option) and Pfizer will continue to remain available for those eligible.

Next steps

Subject to your agreement to phasing out the domestic use of AstraZeneca, the Programme will commence planning to utilise the remaining doses before their expiry.

ENDS.

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