

[REDACTED]
Ref: H201806643

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

I refer to your request of 29 September 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

*“Statistics of adverse reactions post routine childhood vaccination.
Statistics of contraction of bacterial or viral infection directly correlated with the bacterial or viral substance within the vaccination.
Statistics of contraction of bacterial or viral infection within a year after receiving a vaccination specific to that bacteria or virus (ie. the flu).
Statistics of the instances of measles, mumps and rubella in NZ over the past 100 years.
Statistics of the instances of cervical cancer over the past 50 years.
Statistics of the instances of autism over the past 20 years.
Percentages of vaccinated and non-vaccinated people over the past 50 years.”*

The information relating to this request is itemised below. Some of the information you request is already in the public domain. Web links to this information are provided below.

1. *Statistics of adverse reactions post routine childhood vaccination.*

I have decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as this information is publicly available.

The type and frequency (when known) of adverse reactions to medicines can be found in the data sheet for the vaccine under the heading undesirable effects (sometimes called side effects). Data sheets can be found by searching for the vaccine/medicine at the following link: <http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/Medicines/infoSearch.asp>.

2. *Statistics of contraction of bacterial or viral infection directly correlated with the bacterial or viral substance within the vaccination.*

I have decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(d), as the information can also be found in the data sheet in the undesirable effects section at the link given above.

3. *Statistics of contraction of bacterial or viral infection within a year after receiving a vaccination specific to that bacteria or virus (ie. the flu).*

I have decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(g)(i), as the information requested is not held by the Ministry of Health, and I have no grounds for believing that the

information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

4. Statistics of the instances of measles, mumps and rubella in NZ over the past 100 years.

I have decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as this information is publicly available on the ESR website at the following link: <https://surv.esr.cri.nz/>. However, data collected does not go back 100 years.

5. Statistics of the instances of cervical cancer over the past 50 years.

I have decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as this information is publicly available at the following link: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/cancer-historical-summary-1948-2015>.

Please refer to 'Cancer: Historical summary 1948–2015'. This web page contains one Microsoft Excel file available for download. This file contains multiple tabs. Browse to the 'Regs_Female' tab for cancer registrations or the 'Deaths_Female' tab for cancer deaths. The relevant information is labelled as 'Cervix (C53)' (columns V and W).

6. Statistics of the instances of autism over the past 20 years.

I have decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

7. Percentages of vaccinated and non-vaccinated people over the past 50 years.

The Ministry of Health does not hold data on the number of people vaccinated and not vaccinated in the last 50 years. Therefore, I have decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry of Health, and I have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

However, data on childhood immunisation coverage is available from when the National Immunisation Register was established in 2005. This information is publicly available from the following link: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation/immunisation-coverage/national-and-dhb-immunisation-data>.

Prior to establishment of the National Immunisation Register, immunisation coverage was estimated by surveys. The National Childhood Immunisation Coverage Survey 2005 is publicly available at the following link: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/national-childhood-immunisation-coverage-survey-2005>.

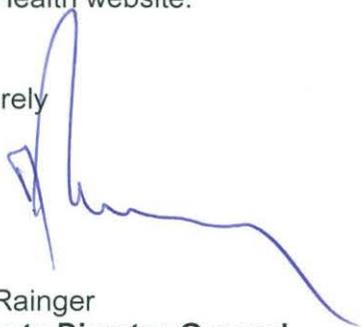
Prior to the 2005 survey, the last national immunisation coverage survey in New Zealand was undertaken in 1991/92. This is publicly available from: [http://www.moh.govt.nz/notebook/nbbooks.nsf/0/9AC0D7E126EA8C84CC25786000690F3E/\\$file/immunisationcoverage.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/notebook/nbbooks.nsf/0/9AC0D7E126EA8C84CC25786000690F3E/$file/immunisationcoverage.pdf).

The Ministry of Health does not hold complete data on all immunisations given to those born prior to the implementation of the National Immunisation Register in 2005.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Ministry of Health website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William Rainger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr William Rainger
**Acting Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention**

