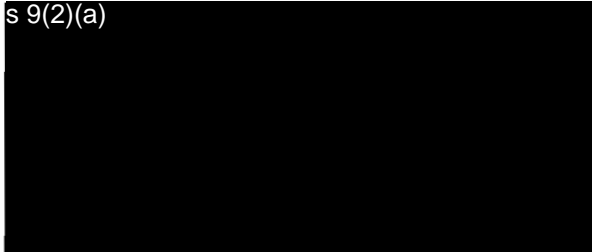


s 9(2)(a)



Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 4 May 2021 that asked:

1. *“Does New Zealand currently have a digital certification available to citizens who have completed COVID vaccinations?”*
2. *When will there be a digital certification of Covid Vaccination available to citizenships?*
3. *If not, why NOT:
is it because The Ministry of Health is unwilling to prepare adequately in advance for a/the Covid Pandemic?
To be prepared, why not buy what Denmark is using for digital certification or an equivalent or better?”*

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is currently working jointly with agencies across government on digital vaccine certification. As such digital certification is under active consideration by the Ministry and the Government.

However, I can advise that with COVID-19 vaccinations being rolled out worldwide, vaccination certificates that both meet rigorous criteria and are operationally sound have been proposed as a measure to give greater confidence about easing border restrictions without compromising public health. The World Health Organization (WHO) is preparing standards, specifications and guidelines for member states on the development of digital vaccination certificates, and New Zealand is involved in this work. The WHO guidance is expected to be complete by July and will set an agreed approach internationally.

It is important that any solution for New Zealand meets high standards, is relevant for our context and is user friendly. Given that, in future, vaccine certificates may be needed by some countries for international travel it is important that any certificate can be globally recognised and is trustworthy.

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 website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M Roberts". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "M" and a cursive "Roberts".

Maree Roberts
**Deputy Director-General
System Strategy and Policy**