

16 August 2021

Ref: H202109086

Dear 

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for information about COVID-19. On 30 July 2021, your request was transferred from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). You specifically requested:

“...how many people have been Hospitalized in NZ from side effects from the Covid Vaccine? How many people have died after receiving the Covid Vaccine in NZ? Is this information freely available on a Government Website like it is in the UK, EU, USA etc.”

Medsafe does not hold information on how many people have been hospitalised in New Zealand from side effects from the COVID-19 Vaccine. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by Medsafe or the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

Further information is available in the *Overview of Vaccine Reports* at: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp. The Weekly reports contain a link that provides a summary of the number and type of adverse events (scroll to the bottom of the page for full data under the heading *latest listing of all cases received*). Please note whilst these events occurred following immunisation, they are not necessarily due to the vaccine.

Medsafe provides a summary of the reported deaths after receiving the vaccine as part of its regular public reporting. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available at: <https://medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/safety-report-21.asp#death>.

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.

Yours sincerely



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe