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20 January 2023

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022017725

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 (the Ministry of Health) on 28 November 2022 for information regarding COVID-19 data. I will respond to each part of your request below.

- 1. The vaccination status of all deaths 'with Covid' per year since Covid began, until present, as well as their age brackets.*
- 2. The vaccination status of all deaths where 'Covid was the underlying cause' per year since Covid began, until present as well as their age brackets.*
- 3. The vaccination status of all deaths where 'Covid was a contributing factor' per year since Covid began, until present as well as their age brackets.*

Due to the adoption of new confidentiality methods, as described below, Manatū Hauora can now release data that was previously protected due to privacy concerns. Please refer to the excel spreadsheet attached to this letter with respect to your three questions outlined above.

Confidentiality methods:

To avoid revealing sensitive information about potentially identifiable individuals in our data, we apply two data confidentiality methods, perturbation and suppression, to any data that is not already released as exact counts on the Manatū Hauora website.

Perturbation is the adding of random noise to data, for example, rounding up or rounding down, and suppression is not providing data, where doing so could compromise confidentiality.

For data that is not already provided exactly on the website:

- All values between 1 and 5 are suppressed,
- Zero values are provided exactly, except for in sensitive categories where a zero value may be suppressed to protect other low values,
- Values of 6 and above are perturbed using fixed random rounding to base 3 (FRR3), and
- This entails rounding values to neighbouring multiples of 3. For example, 11 may be rounded to 12 or 9.

Fixed random rounding (FRR3) is a best-practice confidentiality method recommended by Stats NZ. More information about this method is available at:

www.data.govt.nz/toolkit/privacy-and-security/understanding-data-confidentiality/data-confidentiality-principles-and-methods-report/.

For example:

True value	Displayed value
4	.s (suppressed)
11	9 or 12
15	15
16	15 or 18
301	300 or 303

4. The number of observed deaths (all cause mortalities) which happened within 28 days of vaccination, since vaccinations began back in 2021.

Information regarding deaths within 21 days following vaccination is available on the Medsafe website within the adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) reports at: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp.

Your request for deaths within 28 days of vaccination is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as there is no requirement under the Act for agencies to create new information, provide an opinion or compile information that is not part of the usual reporting process. Additionally, this is difficult to capture as the gap between dose one and two is 28 days which may lead to potentially counting a death twice.

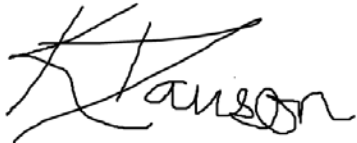
5. The vaccination status of reinfection Covid cases per month, and the vaccination status of reinfection cases within 90 days of previous positive test per month.

Please refer to the response in the attached excel spreadsheet.

I trust this information 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 Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Davison'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Kristen' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Davison'.

Kristen Davison

**Acting Interim Group Leader, Intelligence, Surveillance and Knowledge
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui**