

27 April 2022

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s 9(2)(a)

By email s 9(2)(a)  
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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), transferred from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 24 February 2022 for information relating to the COVID-19 vaccine. Please find a response to each part of your request below:

*1. What is the Government's response to the high number of covid-19 vax shot adverse reactions and injuries?*

The Ministry is closely monitoring the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines and encouraging reporting of adverse events following immunisation. We have seen a good level of reporting engagement for the vaccines from both consumers and healthcare professionals. Information on reports received is regularly presented and discussed with the COVID-19 Vaccine Independent Safety Monitoring Board, who have felt reassured by the safety data for the COVID-19 vaccines.

Further information relating to adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination is outlined in Medsafe's safety reports, which are regularly published. This information is publicly available on Medsafe's website and can be found at the following link: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp)

*2. Have the Government put pressure on Heath and medical professionals to not diagnose ill health symptoms as consequent to receiving covid-19 vax shots?*

The Ministry does not interfere with the patient-healthcare professional relationship in terms of the diagnosis of a specific condition or reaction. The Ministry has, however, consistently encouraged both consumers and healthcare professionals to report any suspected adverse reactions to any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines, regardless of whether it is a serious, minor, or well-established reaction. We also encourage the reporting of adverse reactions even if it is not certain that they have been caused by the COVID-19 vaccine.

To support reporting by consumers, we have tried to make the process easier. Any adverse event that occurs during the observation period following vaccination can be reported directly into the COVID Immunisation Register (CIR) by staff at the vaccination site, which is then accessible by Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM). Information on reporting adverse events at vaccination sites is detailed in the COVID-19 Vaccine Operating Guidelines, along with information around treatment injury claims from the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), available here: [www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-health-professionals/covid-19-vaccine-operating-and-planning-guidelines](http://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-health-professionals/covid-19-vaccine-operating-and-planning-guidelines)

3. *Why are politicians not required to be vaccinated?*
4. *Why is it not compulsory for politicians to be covid-19 vaccinated?*
5. *Why are parliament staff not required to be covid-19 vaccinated?*

There is no blanket exemption for members of parliament (MP) for not getting the COVID vaccine. However, they are not currently mandated by any health order.

While MPs as parliamentarians are not subject to the Official Information Act 1982, you may want to write directly to your MP for further information. All their contact details are available at: [www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/have-your-say/contact-an-mp/](http://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/have-your-say/contact-an-mp/).

6. *Are you aware of the thousands of people in NZ raising concerns of suffering add verse Covid-19 vaccine symptoms?*
7. *Are you aware of people in NZ suffering severe covid-19 adverse events?*
8. *Are you aware of people in NZ suffering severe covid-19 adverse events having died?*

It is important to note that the definition of an adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) is an untoward medical event which follows immunisation and does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the administration of the vaccine. The adverse event may be an unfavourable or unintended sign, abnormal laboratory finding, symptom or disease.

Reports are sent to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) if the reporter suspects that the vaccine may have caused the event. This does not necessarily mean that the vaccine caused the event. Specifically, in regard to a 'severe adverse event', this is a subjective term and assigned by the reporter and not something which we actively monitor/report on. All adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) are classified as either non-serious or serious. An AEFI is considered serious if it:

- is a medically important event or reaction
- requires hospitalisation or prolongs an existing hospitalisation
- causes persistent or significant disability or incapacity
- is life threatening
- causes a congenital anomaly/birth defect
- results in death

The COVID-19 Vaccine Independent Safety Monitoring Board (CV-ISMB,) has been setup to provide expert advice to both Medsafe and the Programme around the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines. The CV-ISMB reviews all potential safety signals, reported deaths and cases presented by either CARM or Medsafe. You can read more about the process here: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/monitoring-process.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/monitoring-process.asp)

Within the Medsafe safety report there is a section on reported deaths. To date there have been two deaths which were likely due to vaccine induced myocarditis, both of these deaths are still with the Coroner.

For more information, see the link to the Medsafe safety reports provided in response to Question 1.

9. *What number of NZ based adverse covid-19 vax injuries have been reported?*

Information relating to this part of the request is outlined in Medsafe's safety report. This information can be found on the link above in Question 1.

10. *In the stock of Pfizer covid-19 vaccines the NZ government have received, are there different formula / blends, concoctions being used and administered, or are they all identical in so far as they administer exactly the same formula / blends, concoctions in each dose throughout the total consignments of Pfizer Covid-19 vaccines being administered in NZ?*

Information relating to this part of the request is publicly available on Medsafe's website and can be found on the following link: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp).

11. *Is the Government concerned about the high number of reported covid-19 vaccine adverse reactions /events / injuries, of people seeking medical help?*

12. *What is the Government doing / planning to do about the large number of reported adverse reactions to the covid-19 vaccinations?*

While the Act allows New Zealanders to ask for information from Ministers and government agencies, there is no requirement for agencies to create new information, compile information they do not hold or provide or prove an opinion. Your questions and the statements that support them appear designed to engage in a debate about the Government's COVID-19 vaccination programme, rather than a request for official information. These questions are therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act on the grounds that the information sought is not held by the Ministry.

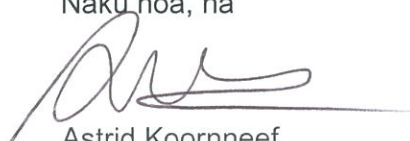
13. *Will the Government finance focussed treatment and support of injuries sustained by adverse covid-19 vaccinations? If not, why not?*

Treatment harm caused by COVID-19 vaccination is covered by ACC if the criteria for treatment injury are met. This means that there's a physical injury caused by the vaccination, that's not a necessary part or ordinary consequence of the treatment. Further information is on ACC's website: [www.acc.co.nz/covid-19/providers/general-covid-19-provider-information](http://www.acc.co.nz/covid-19/providers/general-covid-19-provider-information).

You may be interested to know the latest ACC COVID-19 vaccination injury analysis information is available at: [www.acc.co.nz/assets/oia-responses/IPA5361-Covid-Vaccination-Claims-Refresh-Jan22.pdf](http://www.acc.co.nz/assets/oia-responses/IPA5361-Covid-Vaccination-Claims-Refresh-Jan22.pdf).

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Koornneef

**Director  
National Immunisation Programme**