

09 March 2023

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H2023021044

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 February 2023 for information regarding adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) numbers. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

*Can you please check Adverse event records following SARS-CoV-2 vaccination and advise:*

*Whether AEFI-A-011132 assigned to a 24-year-old female or a male in his 60's?*

*What are the AEFI-A numbers for the husband and wife who died on the same day/same 24 hr period in June 2021 in South Auckland?*

*Whether AEFI-A-034418 is actually assigned to a female in her 70s.*

*Please check whether AEFI-A-028860 is actually assigned to a male in his 60s or whether it has previously or should be assigned to person in 90s who is now deceased.*

*What is the AEFI-A number for 26 year old male who was administered dose 1 of BNT162b2 on 5 November 2021 and died on 17 November 2021?*

Medsafe is unable to provide details of the specific AEFI-A numbers assigned to individuals as this would allow the identity and private medical information of individuals to be revealed. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing information and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

*Please provide a copy of the method for processing adverse event reports for both Covid-19 vaccine and non-Covid related medicines/vaccines including but not limited to:-*

*-Deleting or removing reports.*

*-Requirements, if any, for timeliness of inclusion in adverse event reporting after a report is made.*

*-Explanation of what 'First reported date' in the line listing refers to eg by or to Medsafe or to Medsafe/CARM by the reporter. Please be specific regarding what point in the process this date reflects.*

*Please provide list of all AEFI-A- numbers for the 184 mortalities reported to CARM up to and including November 30 2022*

*Please provide the explanation(s) for the large sequential runs of AEFI-A- numbers that are not assigned as per reported in the line listing eg AEFI-A- 013887 through AEFI-A-020095"*

Medsafe follows the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for best practices which includes the processing of AEFI numbers. These guidelines are publicly available at the following link: [who-umc.org/media/164209/whodrug-best-practices-vers-6-revised-final.pdf](http://who-umc.org/media/164209/whodrug-best-practices-vers-6-revised-final.pdf).

These guidelines provide an explanation of the non-sequential numbers as you describe in your request, on the "READ THIS" page in the in the "List of the top 50 most frequently reported AEFIs (any dose)" spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is publicly available on the following webpage under Figure 1: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/safety-report-46.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/safety-report-46.asp).

As noted above, Medsafe is unable to provide details of the specific AEFI-A numbers assigned to individuals as this would allow the identity and private medical information of individuals to be revealed. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

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.

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](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



Chris James  
**Group Manager**  
**Medsafe**