

Jan MacPheroson

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Ref: H201906271

Dear Jan MacPheroson

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 5 July 2019 for:

*"Please advise the number of claims resulting in hospitalisation for blood clots and cardiac infarction caused by the prescription of aspirin in conjunction with NSAIDS between 2010 and the present"*

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) holds information on the number of hospital discharges for Myocardial Infarction and some other conditions which may have been caused by a blood clot.

The information is coded using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems.

The Ministry uses these codes to code the primary diagnosis, i.e. the condition that caused the hospitalisation. However this system does not identify what caused the condition (with the exception of injuries or poisonings).

The Ministry is unable to determine if the condition was caused by a drug interaction based on the data held by national collections and reporting.

Therefore your request for information is refused in full under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely



Shayne Hunter  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Data and Digital**