

26 August 2020

L M

By email: [fyi-request-13503-4288fcc8@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13503-4288fcc8@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202006028

Dear L M

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 11 August 2020 for:

*"I am asking the Ministry of Health to provide me with copies of the latest government and in particular Ministry of Health produced information available on the right to choose not to be immunised against Covid-19 and how this will fit with the apparent decision to immunise the population."*

No documents have been identified within scope of your request for "copies of the latest government and in particular Ministry of Health produced information available on the right to choose not to be immunised against COVID-19." For this reason, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist.

No immunisations in New Zealand are compulsory and there are no plans to make a potential COVID-19 vaccination compulsory. You may be interested in the Minister of Health's response to Oral Parliamentary Question No. 2 of 28 May 2020 available at:  
[https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/document/HansS\\_20200527\\_124800000/2-question-no-2-health](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/document/HansS_20200527_124800000/2-question-no-2-health)

The development of a safe and effective vaccine is a crucial tool in New Zealand's ongoing response to COVID-19. The government has invested \$37 million into local and global efforts to develop a vaccine against COVID-19, and to explore the potential to manufacture vaccines in New Zealand. This is significant support both for the international community, and for research and production in New Zealand. You can find more information by visiting the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's website ([www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz)) and searching 'COVID-19 vaccine strategy.'

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



Jane Kelley  
**Director**  
**COVID-19 Health System Response**