



Robin Benson
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Ref: DOIA 2021-1717

30 March 2021

Dear Robin

I refer to your request dated 5 March for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

1. *Please provide any and all cost data, whether in part or aggregate, relating to the securing, support, funding, purchase of Covid19 vaccine, or any other type of payment made to or financial agreement agreed with vaccine producers and/or developers and/or suppliers in the context of Covid19.*
2. *Please confirm MBIE policy in relation to the public provision of this and related cost data following entering into any such commercial agreements.*

All vaccine purchase contracts were funded from a contingency that is managed by the Ministry of Health (MOH). The overall contingency has covered expenses for both vaccine procurement and the Immunisation Programme.

The contingency was used to fund purchases of Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Novavax, and Janssen's COVID-19 vaccines. It has also covered New Zealand's participation in the global COVAX Facility (including a \$26.88 million upfront payment). I can confirm that the purchasing funding was not used to make any separate payments to vaccine producers, developers, or suppliers while MBIE was leading vaccine procurement.

The government will be proactively releasing overall cost information in the next few weeks, where that information does not reveal the amounts paid for individual contracts. I have been informed that this release will occur no later than 15 May 2021.

MBIE will not provide cost figures for individual contracts because the government has signed confidential disclosure agreements (CDAs) with the vaccine suppliers that we negotiated with. These CDAs prevent disclosure of the terms of the contracts, including pricing information, and were necessary for timely assessment and access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

In accordance with the Act, we are therefore withholding overall cost information under section 18(d): *the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.*

We are also withholding individual contract costs under section 9(2)(ba):



To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to:

- (i) prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; and*
- (ii) would be likely to otherwise damage the public interest*

Please note that the Ministry of Health is responsible for managing the government's contracts with suppliers and, as of February 2020, has replaced MBIE as the lead agency for vaccine procurement.

For more information on the overall purchasing strategy, you can find the August Cabinet paper here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-october/HR02-CABINET-PAPER-AND-MINUTE-COVID-19-vaccine-strategy-10-August-2020.pdf>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602. Please contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response.

Yours sincerely

Simon Rae
Manager, International Science Partnerships
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment