

Virginia Crawford

By email: [fyi-request-14881-b106f128@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14881-b106f128@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202102628

Dear Virginia Crawford

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 9 March 2021 for:

*"... the government's plans ...for vaccinating children and infants. Pfizer is still trialing 12-15 year olds and will have data regarding 5-11 year olds by the end of this year. So far there has been NO testing of children under 5. There is also the question (a very serious one) of how the Pfizer vaccine may interact with other vaccines given to children. Data regarding this may NEVER be available. What does the government plan to do about all this?"*

Clinical trials to assess the safety and efficacy of the vaccine for children are ongoing. The Government will monitor and support clinical trials as relevant. Once it receives an application, New Zealand's medicines regulatory agency, Medsafe, decides if a medicine has acceptable efficacy, safety and quality for use in this country. You can find more information about how this process works here: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/consumers/Safety-ofMedicines/Vaccine-safety.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/consumers/Safety-ofMedicines/Vaccine-safety.asp).

*The Government has signed legally binding contracts to purchase Pfizer, Janssen, AstraZeneca and Novavax's vaccines. These contracts are advance purchase agreements, which involve paying a proportion of the purchase price prior to vaccines being delivered. Since 10 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine have now been purchased, what is going to happen to the advance purchase agreements (for several million doses) made with Janssen, AstraZeneca and Novavax? How much money was paid, as a proportion of the purchase price, to those companies?"*

Any information relating to vaccine purchasing is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information. For further information regarding the government vaccine portfolio please refer to the following link: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines).

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 Ministry 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).

Yours sincerely



Maree Roberts  
**Deputy Director-General  
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