

T Baker

By email: fyi-request-14899-4938bd99@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H202103824

Dear T Baker

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 31 March 2021 for:

- “1. Based on the benefit risk assessment, how many deaths are foreseen as a result of adverse reactions to the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine?*
- 2. Based on the benefit risk assessment, how many serious life threatening events are foreseen as a result of adverse reactions to the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine?*
- 3. What are the age-stratified Covid-19 infection fatality rates (or similar) used in the benefit risk assessment for unvaccinated individuals?*
- 4. What are the age-stratified Covid-19 infection fatality rates (or similar) used in the benefit risk assessment for vaccinated individuals?*
- 5. What are the age-stratified Covid-19 hospitalisation rates (or similar) used in the benefit risk assessment for unvaccinated individuals?*
- 6. What are the age-stratified Covid-19 hospitalisation rates (or similar) used in the benefit risk assessment for vaccinated individuals?*
- 7. Based on the benefit risk assessment, how many lives are foreseen to be saved as a result of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine programme? Please provide lives foreseen to be saved given different vaccinated percentage of population.*
- 8. Does the benefit risk assessment consider reopening of the borders, and free movement of New Zealand citizens and residents, as a benefit of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine programme? If so, when does the benefit risk assessment assume the New Zealand border will be reopened to isolation-free travel of New Zealand citizens and residents?*
- 9. Does the benefit risk assessment consider reduced usage of Covid-19 Alert Level 2, 3 and 4 as a benefit of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine programme? If so, what is the frequency reduction considered in the benefit risk assessment for Levels 2, 3 and 4?*
- 10. Does the benefit risk assessment consider the elimination of all alert levels (including level 1) as a benefit of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine programme? If so, when does the benefit risk assessment assume this could be possible?*
- 11. Who were the authors of the assessment? Was the assessment peer reviewed? If so, who were the peer reviewers?*
- 12. How many pages long is the official benefit risk assessment document?”*

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) does not hold any information within scope of your request. Therefore, your request is refused under 18(e) that the information does not exist.

You may, however, want to review the PubMed website of the National Library of Medicine, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, and has published articles on the safety and efficacy of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, including: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33301246/>.

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 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe