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OIA-2021-4133

August 2021

M P Ross

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Dear M P Ross

I refer to your requests of 25 June 2021, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Ministry of Health (MoH), for the following information regarding the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Your requests were transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for response. The following responses are provided with respect to the NZDF vaccination programme.

1. *What was the reason there a slow down to vaccinating people (including the NZDF) in the national vaccination programme that was given to the Ministry of Defence?*
2. *Who specifically told the Ministry of Defence that there was to be a slow down of vaccinating NZDF staff?*
  - a. *If applicable can you please provide these communications (emails, letters etc).*
3. *Why were all appointment times removed for already confirmed appointments and had to be rescheduled until after 15th June 2021?*

The NZDF requests sufficient vaccine for planned appointments on a weekly basis, from the MoH. The NZDF received confirmation from the MoH, on 11 June 2021, that it would be limited to 800 doses per week through the months of June and July.

Appointments were therefore rescheduled so that the number of appointments did not exceed the 800 doses made available to the NZDF by the MoH. At the time the decision was made there were 1,228 appointments booked.

Relevant correspondence is enclosed. Where indicated, personal information of operational personnel is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA. Personal information for other government officials is withheld to protect privacy, in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

4. *How long was the booking system closed for NZDF staff to book an appointment to receive their vaccination?*

One day.

5. *Prior to 15th June 2021, did the NZDF have enough doses 'at hand' to vaccinate all its staff twice, as part of the MOH national vaccination programme?*

The NZDF does not possess a freezer for the storage of frozen vaccine. As noted above, the NZDF requests sufficient vaccine for planned appointments from the MoH on a weekly basis. The vaccine is stored by the NZDF in a thawed state before use.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request.

Yours sincerely



**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosure:**

1. Email 11 June 2021 – limit of 800 doses per week