

21 July 2021

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T. Baker

By email: [fyi-request-15967-ca701f3e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15967-ca701f3e@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202108049

Tēnā koe T. Baker

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

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 5 July 2021. Your requests were consolidated under section 18(A) of the Act. I shall respond to each part of your request below:

*Please provide information related to the following:*

*- Total number of Covid-19 PCR tests that the New Zealand Government and/or Ministry of Health has performed and funded to date.*

As of 19 July 2021 23:59, Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has funded total of 2,405,241 PCR tests.

*- Total cost that the New Zealand Government and/or Ministry of Health has incurred on Covid-19 PCR testing to date.*

The Ministry has received invoices totalling \$136,962,980 to end of May 2021. Invoices for June 2021 are not yet available.

*- The cost incurred or funded by the New Zealand Government and/or Ministry of Health per Covid-19 PCR test over time.*

The costs of laboratories processing per test are as follows:

\$70/test – up until end of September 2020.

\$63/test – from 1 October 2021.

*- Information related to Covid-19 PCR test laboratory processing contracts:*

- a) Dates contracts were issued for tender;*
- b) Names of laboratories that tendered;*
- c) Dates same tenders were finalised and contract signed;*
- d) Duration of laboratory testing contracts; and*
- d) Dates contracts were re-tendered, if applicable.*

Only one contract has been issued by the Ministry related to the laboratory processing of COVID-19 tests. A request for proposals from providers of COVID-19 end-to-end saliva testing services (including laboratory processing of samples) was released on 12 March 2021. The Ministry is not able to release the names of unsuccessful tenderers; however, the successful tenderer was Asia Pacific Healthcare Group (APHG), who operate several laboratories across New Zealand. A 12-month contract was signed with APHG in May 2021. The names of

unsuccessful tenderers are withheld in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii) where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.

*Please provide all reports provided to date by Pfizer to satisfy Comirnaty Provisional Consent conditions:*

- *"52) Provide any reports on the duration of efficacy and the requirement for booster doses within five working days of these being produced."*
- *"54) Provide any reports on efficacy including asymptomatic infection in the vaccinated group, vaccine failure, immunogenicity, efficacy in population subgroups and results from post-marketing studies, within five working days of these being produced."*
- *"56) Provide Periodic Safety Update Reports according to the same schedule as required by the EMA."*
- *"57) Provide monthly safety reports, as well as all safety reviews they conduct or become aware of."*

Conditions 52 and 54 have not yet been addressed by Pfizer, therefore this information does not yet exist. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act. Please refer to the following link to keep up to date with how the conditions are progressing: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp).

For conditions 56, these reports are withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source.

For condition 57, here is the most useful link [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/safety-report-14.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/safety-report-14.asp).

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).

Nāku noa, nā



Darryl Carpenter  
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