

13 September 2021

Garrick Cameron

By email: fyi-request-16436-eed073d9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H202110792

Tēnā koe Garrick

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 18 August 2021 requesting information relating to the African Green Monkey cell culture in vaccines. Please find a response to your request below.

1. *“Please supply a list of every single approved vaccine in New Zealand since 1984 that’s has an attenuated virus cultured in the diseased African Green Monkey cell line. I guess Polio, MMR and Influenza vaccines all contain this cell line.*

This part of your request would be difficult to collate as it would require the Ministry to review documents from multiple directorates within the 37-year time period and determine what information is within the scope of the request. While the Ministry has considered extending your request and considered a charge, providing a response would require substantial collation or research. This is considered ‘substantial’ as it would have a significant and unreasonable impact on the Ministry and its ability to carry out critical operations. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

2. *Please supply a list and links to every single scientific publication, peer reviewed or not, that references the occurrence of SARSCov2 in African Green Monkey or other monkey cell cultures.”*

There is no requirement under the Act for the Ministry to provide an opinion, create new information or, as in this case, compile information it does not hold. This part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act on the grounds that the information sought is not held by the Ministry. You may, however, want to use Google Scholar (www.scholar.google.com.au) and other search engines to compile your own list.

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 of Health website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes. The signature starts with a sharp upward stroke, followed by a long horizontal line that curves slightly upwards at the end, and a smaller, more complex stroke underneath.

Nick Allan
Manager OIA Services
Office of the Director-General