

6 October 2021

Simon Brown

By email: fyi-request-16617-ba616e30@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202111756

Tēnā koe Simon

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 4 September 2021 for:

*"I would like to learn what discussions were had by the COVID Vaccine Technical Advisory Group regarding the potential long term detrimental safety implications of using a two-dose regimen of the BioNTech/Pfizer mRNA BNT162b2 vaccine. I am specifically interested in any and all discussions regarding the use of a "leaky" vaccine as described in Pfizers original application for FDA Emergency use Authorization, subsequently confirmed by numerous international studies, including the most recent Israeli study by Gazit et al
(https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=pNiy4Yvg__LcRQMMJH6LLgXtNWbyt2D80FeJtlxGuw&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2emedrxiv%2eorg%2fcontent%2f10%2e1101%2f021%2e08%2e24%2e21262415v1)*

I specifically would like the minutes of meetings and any formal papers/submissions by CV-TAG members that address the following issues with the vaccinated and why they are not considered either a short and/or long term public health risk:

- 1. increased risk of escape variants*
- 2. disease reservoirs and increased risk for reverse zoonosis*
- 3. high viral loads and viraemia*
- 4. increased risk of coagulopathies*
- 5. increased risk of autoimmunities, antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) and acute lung injury (ALI)."*

The stated concerns have not been identified through clinical trials or through the large number of real-world studies of the Pfizer vaccine, including before and after formal approval, at a sufficiently robust level that would trigger an assessment from COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group. As such the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) does not hold the information you have requested. Therefore, your request is refused in full under section 18(g) of the Act on the grounds that the information sought is not held by the Ministry.

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, appearing to be 'Nick Allan', written in a cursive style.

Nick Allan
Manager, OIA Services
Office of the Director-General