

10 November 2021

133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

Mark Paulson

By email: fyi-request-17150-12303a48@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202114101

Tēnā koe Mark

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 12 October 2021 for:

“Please tell me how many vials of the covid 19 vaccine that you have purchased from Pfizer have had to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of because they cannot be used. The period covered by my request is for this calendar year up to and including 30 September 2021, or any later date if you have more recent information available.

I understand that each vial can provide 6 doses of vaccine, please confirm this is correct and if not how many doses are in each vial.

Please advise the number of vials destroyed for each reason, eg: past its expiry date, been out of cold storage for too long, etc, and how many vials were full vials and how many were partially full (and if known how many doses were disposed of).”

Data on the number of vials wasted from 13 July – 3 September 2021 is due to be publicly released on the Ministry’s website here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests>. Please note, wastage data was not collected prior to 13 July 2021.

Each vial contains about 6 doses.

Your request for more recent data is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information you have requested is not available in the format that you have requested. While the Act enables people to request official information from the Ministry, it only applies to information it holds. There is no obligation to create information or compile information it does not hold in order to respond to requests.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



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