

04 April 2022

Official Information Request 8140009598  
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Robin Benson

By email: [fyi-request-17784-90de67df@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17784-90de67df@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Robin

**Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)**

**Re: Council's Covid-19 vaccination policy**

Thank you for your information request dated 1 December 2021, for information about the Auckland Council Covid-19 vaccination policy. You clarified your request on 6 December 2021. I apologise for the delay in our response, which was due to several factors. These included: consultations with other agencies taking longer than expected; a large volume of requests about our vaccination policies; and the number of staff involved in processing these requests (including those involved in the process of publishing the key information which provides the information to answer the first part of your request).

For your ease of reference your questions are included in the response below.

- 1. Any and all evidence, data, research, considerations and any other relevant material relied upon or in any way contributing to formulation of and decision to adopt of the Policy\* in particular but without limitation to the scientific and medical basis for the Policy.**

We have recently made this information publicly available You can find it on our Auckland Council website here - [Our Position on Vaccinations](#)

- 2. All communications for the period 1 October 2021 to date between the council and all the following entities concerning Covid-19 mandates and vaccination policy:**
  - (a) the Ministry of Health**
  - (b) the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment**
  - (c) the COVID-19 Response Minister**

\*You clarified on 6 December 2021 that by policy you meant -

**“Any policy that mandates vaccination for anyone. Please note that vague references to for example Ministry of Health announcements, commentary in media or unreferenced claims or speculation are not evidence in this context.”**

We carried out an ICT search for the communications you had requested.

1. Between @Auckland Council and @health.govt.nz
2. Between @Auckland Council and @mbie.govt.nz
3. Between @Auckland Council and [c.hipkins@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:c.hipkins@ministers.govt.nz)

With the key words Vaccinate/Vaccination and Mandate, for the dates 1 October 2021 to 6 December 2021, the date of your clarified request.

Please see attached results that match the above search terms, from which we have removed otherwise circulated media or press releases and information which is publicly available here - [Our Position on Vaccinations](#).

There were no communications between Auckland Council and Hon Chris Hipkins that were in scope of the request.

Some information is being withheld in accordance with the following sections of the LGOIMA:

- 7(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 7 (2)(d) to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public
- 7(2)(c)(ii) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest
- 7(2)(f)(ii) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of employees from improper pressure or harassment. When we release information in response to an official information request, we have to consider the possibility that it may be circulated to the general public. We withhold staff names and contact details where the information concerns an issue which we consider is one where our staff are likely to be subjected to improper pressure or harassment

The decision by Auckland Council regarding the information contained in this response was made by Anna Bray, Acting Director, Governance.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries, please contact me on 09 301 0101 quoting official information request number 8140009598.

Ngā mihi



Joanne Kearney  
Senior Privacy & Official Information Business Partner  
**Governance Services**