

Ref: 216018

17 March 2022

J Smith  
via FYI.org.nz

Tēnā koe,

## Response to your request for Official Information

On 23 February 2022, you made the following request for information from the Human Rights Commission (“the Commission”):

1. *Please provide all peer reviewed evidence and information, briefings, email, notes and text messages that were used to support the comment by the Commissioner when he publicly stated that that 'people have lost loved ones who have suffered severe side effects of vaccination.'*
2. *What were these severe side effects and how many fatalities, where in the country by DHB area?*
3. *Also how many residents and business owners in Wellington has he engaged with?*

### Requests 1 & 2 – Information regarding Chief Commissioner’s statement

We understand your request relates to the public statement made by Chief Commissioner Paul Hunt on 22 February 2022. Please be advised that the part of the public statement relevant to your request was updated on 23 February 2022 for clarification purposes, as follows:

“These are people who have told us they have lost loved ones, who say they have suffered severe side-effects of vaccination and lost jobs.”

The updated statement is available here: <https://www.hrc.co.nz/news/human-rights-commission-listens-protesters/>. We hope that this provides you with sufficient clarification.

### Request 3 – Information regarding engagements

We can advise that the Commissioner has had a number of engagements in relation to this matter. However, it was agreed between all involved that these engagements would proceed on a confidential basis.

The Commission considers it is in the public interest that the details of these engagements remain confidential. Accordingly, this part of your request is being withheld under section 9(2)(ba) of the Official Information Act 1982.

## Alternative avenues

If you are not satisfied with this response, under the Official Information Act you are entitled to complain to the Ombudsman's Office. Information about how to make a complaint is available at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/> or on freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Moran', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Philippa Moran**

Legal Advisor | Kaitohu Ture

New Zealand Human Rights Commission | Te Kāhui Tika Tangata