

23 June 2022

Chris McCashin

By email: fyi-request-18841-799b20e6@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202205723

Tēnā koe Chris

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 27 April 2022 for full copies of the following documents, which were initially provided to you in your previous request, reference: H202203833:

27 January 2022 Memo: Adapting COVID-19 Surveillance, Intelligence and Contact Tracing Reporting and Data Management for Omicron.

15 February 2022 Memo: COVID-19 Reporting: Phase 2 of the Omicron Strategy

18 March 2022 Memo: COVID-19 Hospitalisation Rate and Mortality Data

Please find the documents requested attached to this letter.

Please note, many of the issues with data identified in this memo have been addressed and the Ministry will continue to improve and update data released on COVID-19 as it becomes available.

You also requested information around misinformation and COVID-19:

You also stated that "Misinformation" is in the public sphere?

Can the Ministry of Health please provide the definition of "Misinformation"

Would a verified Pfizer document be classed as misinformation? - their own document states that

Adverse Events Reported > 2% of cases - Infestations and Infections - COVID-19

Covid-19 as per Pfizer's own reporting has been documented as being a adverse reaction to the vaccine. What part of this information is not understood by the Ministry of Health?

How can you say this is misinformation when it comes from their documents?

While the Act allows people and organisations in New Zealand to ask Ministers and government agencies for information, it is not a vehicle to debate public issues with agencies. There is no requirement under the Act to create new information, compile information an agency does not hold, respond to hypothetical questions, or provide or prove an opinion. The Act does not

support requests where statements or opinions or hypothetical questions are put to an agency for response, couched as a request for official information. Therefore, these parts of your request are refused under section 18(g) on the grounds that the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

However, the Ministry is aware of misinformation and disinformation around the efficacy of the vaccine. We encourage people to only go to trusted sources of information when seeking to find out more about COVID-19 and the vaccine such as their GP, the [Ministry of Health's website](#), [covid19.govt.nz](#), [karawhiua.nz](#), the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, or health providers. It is important for people to protect themselves and others from the disease by following the latest health advice.

If people see any examples of misinformation about COVID-19 or the vaccine, whether it's online or a physical document, we encourage them to report it to CERT NZ through their [website](#) or calling 0800 2378 69.

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 website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gill Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gill Hall
Group Lead, Intelligence, Surveillance and Knowledge
Interim Public Health Agency, Ministry of Health

Appendix 1: Documents for release

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	27 January 2022	Memo: Adapting COVID-19 Surveillance, Intelligence and Contact Tracing Reporting and Data Management for Omicron.	Released in full.
2	15 February 2022	Memo: COVID-19 Reporting: Phase 2 of the Omicron Strategy	
3	18 March 2022	Memo: COVID-19 Hospitalisation Rate and Mortality Data	