5 July 2022

Chuck Schooner
fyi-request-19332-8fe6bf26@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Chuck,

Your Official Information Act request, reference: H202207293
Thank you for your email of 30 May 2022, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find a response to each part of your request below:

> *As a follow up can you also please provide the definitions of*
> *- coercion*
> *- blackmail*
> *- Hobson's choice.*

While the Act allows New Zealanders to ask for information from Ministers and government agencies, there is no requirement for agencies to create new information, compile information they do not hold or provide or prove an opinion. Your request appears designed to engage in a debate about the Government's COVID-19 vaccination programme, rather than a request for official information. The Act does not support requests where an opinion, comment, argument, or hypothetical statement is put to the Ministry for response, couched as a request for information. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) on the grounds that it is not held by the Ministry.

> *It has recently been announced a second booster would be made available to vulnerable groups (conspiracy theorists said this!). As at todays date there are 18 serious side effects per Medsafe reporting. In line with the definition of informed consent can you confirm that people looking to get boosters and / or their fourth dose are made aware of all of these potential side effects along with a warning that they could potentially die given this gene therapy has killed people.*

It is important to note the distinction between safety signals and side effects. All the known side effects for a medicine (including COVID-19 vaccines) are listed in the medicine data sheet not in Medsafe reporting. Under the Ministry of Health's operational guidelines for COVID-19 vaccinators, printed information should be provided to consumers during the informed consent process of their vaccination. This includes information on potential side effects, including rare side effects. In addition, the vaccinators at each site are trained to discuss any concerns that the consumer may have.

> *Please provide informed consent paperwork (if any) and or if I was to walk into a pharmacy having not read a Medsafe report I'm assuming the vaccinator will verbally inform me of the eighteen serious side effects that Medsafe are monitoring?*
> *If this is not completed why not? If persons are not informed of these side effects then this doesn't meet the definition of informed consent per what you provided? Yes or No.*

As stated above the events that Medsafe are monitoring are not considered to be side effects. The known side effects are detailed in the medicine data sheet. Discussion of adverse events that are not known side effects of a medicine is not part of the informed consent process. All consumer information (referred to as collateral in some documents) provided at the point of vaccination is attached as Appendix 1.

With regard to the benefits latest Pfizer documentation has confirmed 12% efficacy in the first week with a waning from there. Can you also confirm per Pfizer's documents that people are notified that there a limited benefits as per the informed consent definition?"

The informed consent process ensures that consumers are made aware of any risks prior to vaccination. International literature on vaccine effectiveness (VE) for COVID-19 variants is regularly reviewed by the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG). Evidence shows VE against infection with Omicron is around 55-70% after a booster dose. VE against hospitalisation increases from 60-70% after a primary course of the Pfizer vaccine to ~90% after a Pfizer booster dose. The Ministry publishes monthly Variants Updates that include data on vaccine effectiveness, found here: www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-resources-and-tools/covid-19-science-news

Information on vaccine efficacy from clinical trials can also be found in the Comirnaty data sheet here: www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/datasheet/c/comirnaty0.3mlGreyCapinj.pdf

How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzgovernmentservices@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on Health NZ's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Astrid Koornneef
Kaitohu | Director
National Immunisation Programme