

10 August 2022

Chris McCashin

By email: [fyi-request-19836-4282a413@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-19836-4282a413@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2022006783

Dear Chris

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 6 July 2022 for information relating to the Flu and COVID-19 vaccine. You specifically requested:

*Can you please provide for the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 to date  
Total Flu Vaccinations Administered  
Total AEFI received*

The total number of flu vaccination administered is unknown as this is not recorded on Manatū Hauora national immunisation register. However, the number of influenza vaccine doses distributed is reported and can be found at: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/safety/reports-and-promotion/influenza-vaccine-ADR-statistics.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/safety/reports-and-promotion/influenza-vaccine-ADR-statistics.asp)

The total number of adverse events following the influenza vaccination is available on the link above.

*Summary of the Reported Deaths to CARM - to include and be broken down as follows  
Unlikely related to vaccine  
Could not be determined due to insufficient information  
Cases still under investigation  
Likely due to vaccine  
Observed versus expected deaths within 21 days of vaccine  
Please break this down into age groups similar to Medsafe reporting*

Fatal cases related to the flu vaccine from 2016 to 2021 can be found on the link above.

Please note, there is little detail about deaths relating to the flu vaccine as there are only a couple per year. As the number of deaths are small the information is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural person.

Information regarding observed versus expected deaths within 21 days of receiving the influenza vaccine is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

*Can you also please provide a list of the identified safety signals*

A list of the identified safety signals does not exist. However, I refer you to Medsafe's safety information which available on the following links below:

- [www.medsafe.govt.nz/safety/EWS/2018/ZosterAndInfluenza.asp#Update](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/safety/EWS/2018/ZosterAndInfluenza.asp#Update).
- [www.medsafe.govt.nz/safety/EWS/2015/influenza-vaccine-hypersensitivity.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/safety/EWS/2015/influenza-vaccine-hypersensitivity.asp).

*Can you also please provide the above information for the Covid-19 Pfizer vaccine which should be easily pulled from Medsafe reports broken down into the years of administration.*

This information is publicly available in Medsafe's safety reports, which are published every month at: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp).

Please note, While the Act allows New Zealanders to ask for information from Ministers and government agencies, there is no requirement for agencies to create new documents or data. The information that you request can be answered in the link above. As such your request is refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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](mailto: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](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Yours sincerely



Chris James  
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**Medsafe**