



15 September 2022

Mr Chris McCashin

fyi-request-20265-5044f6fc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr McCashin

Thank you for your email of 19 July 2022 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Process Documents required to vaccinate a child in Oranga Tamariki's care*
- *For example, following the day that a child is taken into care by Oranga Tamariki what is done to vaccinate the child, approvals required, legal authority, etc etc*
- *Things that are required*
 - *Who signs of approval to vaccinate - OT staff? Judges? Approved caregivers? MOH?*
 - *Is consent sought from parents or family members if they are in state care*
 - *How long it would take to get approval - 1 day? 2 day?*
 - *Please provide the legal advice, documents supporting the ability to vaccinate children when they are outside of parental care*
 - *Ultimately all of the documents associated that gives the state the authority to vaccinate children*
 - *Include how the process ties in with the family of the child / child having "informed consent"*
- *Can you also please provide the following up to and including today's date number of children vaccinated whilst they were in Oranga Tamariki care Number of adverse reactions Number of deaths within 21 days of the vaccine Any settlement amounts paid to family*
- *Deaths of any children any time after the vaccine - broken down into age brackets*

IN-CONFIDENCE

I respond to each of your questions in turn:

- *Process Documents required to vaccinate a child in Oranga Tamariki care*
- *For example, following the day that a child is taken into care by Orangi Tamariki what is done to vaccinate the child, approvals required, legal authority, etc etc*
- *Things that are required*
 - *Who signs of approval to vaccinate - OT staff? Judges? Approved caregivers? MOH?*
 - *Is consent sought from parents or family members if they are in state care*
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 - *Please provide the legal advice, documents supporting the ability to vaccinate children when they are outside of parental care*
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All process documents and information regarding vaccinating tamariki in our care can be found on our Practice Centre at the following link:

[Talking to tamariki, whānau or family and caregivers about the COVID-19 vaccine | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)

You will note the guidance requires engagement with whānau and normal caregivers and stresses that only in extreme circumstances (for example, where not receiving the vaccination may result in serious health concerns for tamariki or rangatahi) would we consider options to legally enable the vaccination of children when a parent or guardian has not consented.

- *Can you also please provide the following up to and including today's date number of children vaccinated whilst they were in Orangi Tamariki care*

At the time of writing this response 53% (1,937) of eligible tamariki (3,640) have received one dose and 38% (1,385) have received two doses.

- *Number of adverse reactions Number of deaths within 21 days of the vaccine Any settlement amounts paid to family*
- *Deaths of any children any time after the vaccine - broken down into age brackets*

The requested information is not readily available as it is not centrally recorded in our system. Staff would still need to manually locate and review a large number of individual CYRAS files which would require significant time and resource and would take staff away from operational priorities. Therefore, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Very serious reactions to the vaccine by a tamariki in our care would be escalated to our Operational Issues team. No serious adverse reactions have been escalated.

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted, and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Bill Searle
Director Victim Engagement and Participation, Service Delivery