

1 November 2022

S Hill

fyi-request-20907-de7a859e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe S Hill,

Your Official Information Act request, reference: HNZ00005360

Thank you for your email on 25 October 2022 asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Under the Official Information Act, I request answers to the following:

- 1. In the time period leading up to October 2022, was the Ministry of Health aware that Pfizer did NOT test whether the COVID-19 vaccine prevented transmission of the virus before it entered the market.*
- 2. At what point was the Ministry of Health made aware that Pfizer did NOT test whether the COVID-19 vaccine prevented transmission of the virus before it entered the market.*
- 3. Has the revelation that Pfizer did NOT test whether the COVID-19 vaccine prevented transmission of the virus before it entered the market had any effect on Ministry of Health guidance or policy?”*

Please see the response to your request outlined below:

- 1. In the time period leading up to October 2022, was the Ministry of Health aware that Pfizer did NOT test whether the COVID-19 vaccine prevented transmission of the virus before it entered the market.*

The application for approval by Medsafe did not include any information on transmission as this was not studied in the clinical trial. Therefore, the indication does not include anything about transmission.

- 2. At what point was the Ministry of Health made aware that Pfizer did NOT test whether the COVID-19 vaccine prevented transmission of the virus before it entered the market.*

As above.

- 3. Has the revelation that Pfizer did NOT test whether the COVID-19 vaccine prevented transmission of the virus before it entered the market had any effect on Ministry of Health guidance or policy?*

Ministry of Health guidance and policy is based on consideration to several factors (such as COVID-19 transmission), including the primary goal of preventing severe disease/ death. Once vaccines are approved by Medsafe, the Ministry is advised by the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) on the use of COVID-19 vaccines. In its recommendations on the decision to use, CV TAG considers a breadth of evidence, including vaccine effectiveness against infection, transmission and severe disease/death. For more information on recommendations issued by CV TAG, you can refer to: [COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group \(CV TAG\) | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

The Ministry of Health continues to monitor evidence on transmission, which is not just limited to clinical data from vaccine companies (e.g. Pfizer), but also includes evidence from real world studies. The latest Variants Update includes a section on vaccine effectiveness against transmission, which is publicly available here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-resources-and-tools/covid-19-science-news>

How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzoia@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 may 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 on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Sasha Wood

Sasha Wood
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Government Partnership and Risk