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Tēnā koe Ben

**Response to your request for official information: H2022015313**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 23 October 2022 for information regarding deaths and the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine.

As part of the transformation of the health and disability system, the functions previously under the Ministry of Health's National Immunisation Programme transferred to Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand on 1 July 2022. As the matters you have raised now fall under the functions of Te Whatu Ora, our agency will respond to your request, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will quote and respond to each part of your request below.

*Explain why during the past 18 months there has been a sudden increase of unexplainable deaths with young, fit and healthy people. New Zealand's excess deaths have increased in 2022 from an average 1.5% to over 9% according to stats.govt site but they contribute this to the aging population. .... If someone such as myself using the government provided data work out that the increase of unexplained deaths has a direct correlation with the Covid-19 vaccine roll out why is the government refusing to acknowledge this? The Australian government have done so and are paying out millions of dollars in compensation.*

Excess mortality data is analysed by experts at Manatū Hauora and Statistics New Zealand. Preliminary analysis shows that in March 2022, there was a large increase in deaths above the average expectations, which coincides with the Omicron outbreak driven deaths. For an age-specific look at death rates this can be found on Statistics New Zealand's website at: [www.stats.govt.nz/experimental/covid-19-data-portal?tab=Health&category=Total%20death%20rates](http://www.stats.govt.nz/experimental/covid-19-data-portal?tab=Health&category=Total%20death%20rates).

You may be interested to know that throughout 2020 and 2021, New Zealand experienced deficit deaths (that is fewer deaths than expected, had the pre-pandemic trends continued). It is important to note that there are many factors that need to be accounted for when analysing excess mortality, such as population changes and other age effects. Because of this, demographers (experts in population dynamics) always deal with and construct models using death rates (deaths per population).

Comparisons of death counts directly without accounting for changes in rates will almost always lead to inaccurate assessments of excess mortality since population changes are not uniform across age groups. For example, New Zealand's 80+ population is growing much faster than it did even a few years ago.

*Also can I ask why Pfizer's criminal history of fraud, lies and coverups was not considered when the New Zealand government decided to use primarily the Pfizer vaccine. Prior to covid Pfizer was given the largest criminal fine in US history for their antics. Mind you when the New Zealand government gives Millions of dollars to the mongrel mob I suppose they need to show consistency when spending money by choosing criminal organisations.....*

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. 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 Te Whatu Ora or any other agency subject to the Act

Please note Medsafe is responsible for the approval of medicines, including vaccines, in New Zealand. Once Medsafe approves an application, Cabinet then considers advice and makes decisions on when and which particular vaccine will be used as part of the COVID-19 immunisation programme. This advice is provided by the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG), who review international literature and make recommendations for use of COVID-19 vaccines.

In early 2021, the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine was selected as the primary vaccine in New Zealand's for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign due to its excellent safety and efficacy profile. You can find memorandums with CV TAG's recommendations for using Comirnaty on the Ministry of Health website here: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/leadership-ministry/expert-groups/covid-19-vaccine-technical-advisory-group-cv-tag](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/leadership-ministry/expert-groups/covid-19-vaccine-technical-advisory-group-cv-tag).

I trust the information provided is of assistance. You are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may decide to proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku noa, nā



**Rachel Mackay**

Acting Interim Director, Prevention  
Te Whatu Ora  
Health New Zealand