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Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

Tēnā koe

Official information request HNZ00010817

Thank you for your email on 9 February 2023, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the act). Please see outlined below a response to each part of your request.

- *"The Ministry of Health funded a preprint study: 'Adverse events following the BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech) in Aotearoa New Zealand' It was published as a pre-print in the Lancet on 20 January 2023 here: https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=mqHc40SSGqb5cO6yjE4SoyLfvLEL-rE87v4eD0ND_g&u=https%3a%2f%2fpapers%2essrn%2ecom%2fsol3%2fpapers%2ecfm%3fabstra ct%5fid%3d4329970 It has since been removed. Please disclose when it was unpublished and why, and whether it will be published again (before or after peer-review)."*

The manuscript 'Adverse events following the BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech) in Aotearoa New Zealand' was initially submitted for publication to one of the Lancet journals. However, at the time of submission, we were not aware that the study manuscript, which represents findings that can change slightly in the peer review process, would also be uploaded as a "preprint" version on the Lancet preprint server. This can happen to any manuscript submitted for publication to one of the Lancet journals, regardless of whether it has been accepted by a Lancet journal.

Once we learned of this, we felt it better to ask the Lancet publishers that they withdraw the paper as we were concerned that the preprint would negatively impact the chances of the manuscript being considered for publication by another journal. The paper was removed from the preprint server on 2 February 2023.

Since that time, the study manuscript has been submitted to an alternative journal and is currently under peer review. We are still awaiting the results of this peer review. We also asked the Lancet preprint server to re-upload the manuscript now that our concern around the preprint publication impacting consideration by another journal is no longer warranted.

The preprint version of the manuscript is available online here:
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4329970.

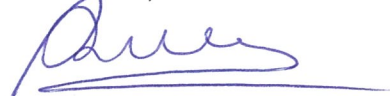
How to get in contact

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, Te Whatu Ora may 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. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Astrid Koornneef
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