



133 Molesworth
Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

10 July 2023

Lance D Lavery

Email: fyi-request-22774-95ffddf0@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2023026956

Tēnā koe Lance

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 12 June 2023. Each part of your request is responded to below in turn:

1. *Any internal reports or communications discussing the potential impact of the COVID19 vaccination program on mortality rates*

A protective effect of vaccination is well established and an analysis on mortality in Aotearoa New Zealand also found vaccination reduced mortality risk. You can find more information on the report titled *COVID-19 Mortality in Aotearoa New Zealand: Inequities in Risk* which is publicly available here: www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-mortality-aotearoa-new-zealand-inequities-risk.

2. *Any research or official documentation the government possesses that discuss a potential correlation between the COVID-19 vaccination program and excess deaths, if any.*

Manatū Hauora does not hold information or official documentation on a correlation between vaccination and excess deaths. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

An explanation around available evidence is publicly available here:

www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/information-release/h2023020095_response.pdf.

A Health Report on this topic is also available here:

www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/information-release/h2023020120_response.pdf.

3. *Information about the government's stance and policies regarding the use of genetically engineered mRNA vaccines and the potential risks associated with them."*

Numerous evaluations have been conducted as part of the Pfizer mRNA vaccines being rolled out in the National Immunisation Programme (NIP) in Aotearoa New Zealand.

These evaluations involve a safety assessment by Medsafe, which approves the vaccine for distribution in New Zealand, and a joint assessment by Manatū Hauora on the roll out of the vaccine within the National Programme, which includes contributions from the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) and the Vaccine, Safety, Surveillance and Research team (VSSR) within NIP.

Manatū Hauora has previously released an OIA response that covers much of the analysis previously done on the Pfizer vaccine and risk of myocarditis/pericarditis, available here: [www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/information-release/h202201068 - response.pdf](http://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/information-release/h202201068_-_response.pdf).

As detailed above, all vaccine safety data considered by the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group can be found here: www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/about-us/who-we-are/expert-groups/covid-19-vaccine-technical-advisory-group-cv-tag.

In particular, you might be interested in reviewing the following memo: [Booster doses after myocarditis/pericarditis:COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group \(CV TAG\) recommendations](#) .

Other websites you might also find useful include:

- The Ministry of Health webpage on vaccine side effects: www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-side-effects-and-reactions.
- The Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) works with Medsafe to monitor the safety of all medicines (including vaccines) in New Zealand and reporting events helps us to make sure that the benefits of taking a medicine outweigh the risk of harm. Medsafe regularly publishes information on vaccine safety here: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp and under datasheets here: medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp.

In addition, the potential risks that were identified in the company risk management plan are published on the Medsafe website here www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/Comirnaty-RMP.pdf.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ross Bell', is positioned above the printed name.

Ross Bell
Acting Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui