

16 June 2023

Erika Whittome  
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Ref: OIA 104812

Tēnā koe Erica

### **Official Information Act request: COVID-19 mandates**

I refer to your request of 23 May 2023, to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) information in relation to the Ministry staff impacted by the COVID-19 vaccination mandates.

On 1 June 2023, the Ministry contacted you to clarify the period your request related to, as its COVID-19 vaccination policy did not come into effect until 1 February 2022. On 12 June 2023, you confirmed that your request could be clarified as the following:

*Please respond to the original question. Thank you for your clarity on when you did require vaccinations.*

I have responded to each part of your request below.

1. *I understand vaccination mandates were dropped sometime around Sept 2022 with the revoking of certain C19 orders by the State.*

All Government vaccination mandates were lifted in September 2022. The Ministry's COVID-19 vaccination policy came into effect on 1 February 2021, requiring employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if entering or working at a Ministry or a court site. Following public health and Government advice, the policy was updated in June 2022. Although still strongly encouraged, the Ministry determined that employees were no longer required to be vaccinated to enter or work at the Ministry's sites.

2. *What number of staff did you terminate or place on any form of "extended leave" due to your vaccination mandates around Nov/Dec 2021 and Jan 2022?*

Between 1 November 2021 and 31 January 2022, no Ministry employees were terminated due to Government vaccination mandates or the Ministry's COVID-19 vaccination policy.

3. Please also share the total headcount as of 15 Nov 2021 and today.

Please find the relevant headcount figures in the table below:

	15 Nov 2021	23 May 2023
Ministry of Justice (excluding Te Arawhiti)	4,309	4,619
Te Arawhiti	194	186
Ministry of Justice (including Te Arawhiti)	4,503	4,805

*\*Note – the headcount figures include fixed term and permanent staff only*

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz).

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/](https://justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/).

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Tina Wakefield  
**Deputy Secretary, Corporate & Digital Services**