



18 August 2023

Ref: DOIA 2324-0045

Erika Whittome

By email: [fyi-request-23406-0749b4ed@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-23406-0749b4ed@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Erika,

Thank you for your request received on 6 July 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*The minutes, emails and any correspondence and policy documents for the decision to publish the [below] saying the employers do not need to debate or provide detailed answers to questions about the vaccination (Pfizer) and its safety.*

*“Before any vaccine is approved for use in New Zealand, it must meet international standards and local requirements for quality, safety and efficacy. This does not mean employers need to debate or provide detailed answers to questions about the vaccination, its safety, and/or its effectiveness as a control against infection/transmission/severe illness.”*

Please refer to the table below that sets out the emails between MBIE, WorkSafe, Crown Law and Department of Internal Affairs officials relating to the publication of the line of interest on the Employment New Zealand website that have been released to you. These emails contain documents that prompted the creation of the website guidance, as well as draft versions of the guidance.

Please note some information has been withheld under the Act, and the reasons for this for each document have been listed in the table. I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

Redactions have been made under section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of individual persons, to remove references to officials' phone numbers, and to remove the identifying information of members of the public. Redactions have been made under section 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege between officials and their legal advisors. Redactions have also been made to remove information that is outside the scope of your request.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact [OIA@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@mbie.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Beth Goodwin

**Manager, Employment Relations Policy**

Workplace Relations and Safety Policy Branch

Date range	Emails	Comments
28/09/2021-30/09/2021	Main advice email chain	<p><i>Reasons for redaction under the Act:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Section 9(2)(a) (Privacy of natural persons)</i></li><li>• <i>Section 9(2)(h) (maintain legal professional privilege)</i></li><li>• <i>Out of scope</i></li></ul>
23/09/2021-29/03/2022	Additional emails, letters and versions	<p><i>Reasons for redaction under the Act:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Section 9(2)(a) (privacy of natural persons)</i></li><li>• <i>Section 9(2)(h) (maintain legal professional privilege)</i></li><li>• <i>Out of scope</i></li></ul> <p><i>Note to requestor: These additional emails include direct responses that were outside of the main email chain concerning the line in question. On pages 25, 27 and 29 of this document some emails cut-off prematurely. These cut-offs are repeats of emails that are shown in full in the 'Main advice email chain', so we've chosen not to duplicate them.</i></p> <p><i>This document also contains letters sent by a non-government third party, with identifying information redacted.</i></p>