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20 September 2023

Erika Whittome

By email: [fyi-request-23931-32c76854@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-23931-32c76854@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: H2023031006

Tēnā koe Erika

### **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 23 August 2023. You requested:

*“1. What advice did the Ministry of Health to give employers for employees raising safety concerns to the Employer/PCBU regarding the Pfizer vaccination?  
2. What advice did the Ministry of Health give to employers for staff raising any personal grievances on that matter in relation to the Covid 19 Public Health Response (vaccinations) Order 2021?  
Please could I have the minutes, emails and any correspondence, policy documents, and advice documents for these? I would also like a copy of any document templates or information packs created for sharing such advice with employers.”*

On 11 September 2023 you were contacted by Manatū Hauora in order to provide context relevant to your request and clarify the information you are interested in. The clarification sent by Manatū Hauora is copied below:

*“Employee situations were run out of the Ministry of Innovation, Business and Employment (MBIE). Manatū Hauora did not provide direct advice to employers/employees. MBIE papers and websites are publicly available and that is about all of the information we hold. This request aligns more with the functions of MBIE. As such, could you please clarify if you seeking advice from MBIE or Manatū Hauora in regard to advice for employers on vaccine safety and personal grievances?”*

Manatū Hauora followed up on this clarification email on 18 September 2023 and on the same date, you replied:

*This request is to the ministry of health.*

Manatū Hauora has not provided information or advice to employers directly. As such your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held.

Manatū Hauora provided MBIE with some COVID-19 Public Health advice. As previously advised, providing advice to employers and employee situations falls within the responsibilities of MBIE.

You may be interested in MBIE papers and websites which are publicly available at: [www.mbie.govt.nz/](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/).

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



Brian Watson  
**COVID-19 Policy**  
**Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui**