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25 October 2023

Mark Shelly

By email: fyi-request-24335-d6525d53@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2023032160

Tēnā koe Mark

Partial transfer of your request for official information

Thank you for your requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 4 October 2023. You requested:

"Regarding covid-19 vaccine independent safety monitoring board media release of 20 Dec 2021.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/statement-covid-19-vaccine-independent-safety-monitoring-board>

Please provide evidence supporting the claim that:

COVID-19 infection increases the risk of myocarditis substantially more than vaccination with the Pfizer vaccine.

The statement refers to an Israeli study. Please advise if it is this study:

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nejm.org%2Fdoi%2Ffull%2F10.1056%2FNEJMoa2110737&data=05%7C01%7Coiagr%40health.govt.nz%7Cdaffc45fb40c4c85f4d808dbc45c45a1%7C23cec7246d204bd19fe9dc4447edd1fa%7C0%7C0%7C638319672804401247%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZGBaAaJsUkILTAAHa4xkQz9eaXbLofFnPRQEoyhxmRDc%3D&reserved=0>

If it is not this study, please advise what study the statement refers to.

The above study found that for males aged between 16 and 29 the incidence of myocarditis following receipt of a Comirnaty injection exceeded 1 in 10,000.

"The highest incidence (10.69 cases per 100,000 persons; 95% CI, 6.93 to 14.46) was observed among male patients between the ages of 16 and 29 years."

The statement claims that the risk of myocarditis from COVID-19 infection is much greater than from COVID-19 vaccination. Please advise what rate of myocarditis the ministry attributes as resulting from a COVID-19 infection in this cohort (males 16 to 29) and what source it uses to substantiate this claim.

Please provide evidence that vaccination (1) protects individuals from contracting COVID-19 and (2) reduces the rate of the occurrence myocarditis if infected (include the rate of reduction of infection that vaccination results in and how this has been established). It would be particularly helpful if this evidence was stratified by age and sex (eg, in males aged 16 - 29 it has been shown that for every 1,000 vaccine doses administered 999 individuals have been protected against infection)."

Manatū Hauora does not hold any information relating to the abovementioned part of your request; however, I have been advised that this information is held by Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand. For this reason, I have decided to transfer this part of your request to their agency under section 14(b)(i) of the Act. You can expect a response from Te Whatu Ora in due course.

Please note, Manatū Hauora will respond to the remaining part of your request in due course:

"Report:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/statement-covid-19-vaccine-independent-safety-monitoring-board>

Claim:

There are many possible causes of myocarditis, the most common being viral infection; an average of 95 people (SAFE study) are discharged from hospital with a principal diagnosis of myocarditis in New Zealand every year.

Please provide a copy of the report referred to above.

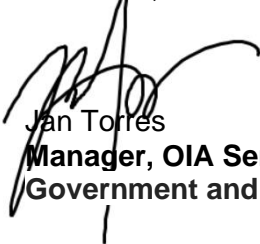
Please provide updated statistics (ie number of people discharged from hospital with a principal diagnosis of myocarditis in NZ every year subsequent to dates used in this study.

Please stratify by age and sex if possible."

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.

Nāku noa, na



Jan Torres

Manager, OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga

COPY OF OIA REQUEST

From: Mark Shelly <fyi-request-24335-d6525d53@requests.fyi.org.nz>;

Received: Wed Oct 04 2023 11:01:20 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)

To: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>; OIA <oiagr@health.govt.nz>;

Subject: Official Information request - Myocarditis by COVID-19 Infection v by Vaccine - NZ Males 16 to 29

Dear Ministry of Health,

Regarding covid-19 vaccine independent safety monitoring board media release of 20 Dec 2021.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/statement-covid-19-vaccine-independent-safety-monitoring-board>

Please provide evidence supporting the claim that:

COVID-19 infection increases the risk of myocarditis substantially more than vaccination with the Pfizer vaccine.

The statement refers to an Israeli study. Please advise if it is this study:

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nejm.org%2Fdoi%2Ffull%2F10.1056%2FNEJMoa2110737&data=05%7C01%7Coiagr%40health.govt.nz%7Cdaffc45fb40c4c85f4d808dbc45c45a1%7C23cec7246d204bd19fe9dc4447edd1fa%7C0%7C0%7C638319672804401247%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZGBaAaJsUklLTAHa4xkQz9eaXbL0fFnPRQEoyhxmRDc%3D&reserved=0>

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Yours faithfully,
Mark Shelly

From: Mark Shelly <fyi-request-24338-785504d4@requests.fyi.org.nz>;

Received: Wed Oct 04 2023 11:18:20 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)

To: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>; OIA <oiagr@health.govt.nz>;

Subject: Official Information request - Hospital discharges with a principal diagnosis of myocarditis

Dear Ministry of Health,

Report:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/statement-covid-19-vaccine-independent-safety-monitoring-board>

Claim:

There are many possible causes of myocarditis, the most common being viral infection; an average of 95 people (SAFE study) are discharged from hospital with a principal diagnosis of

myocarditis in New Zealand every year.

Please provide a copy of the report referred to above.

Please provide updated statistics (ie number of people discharged from hospital with a principal diagnosis of myocarditis in NZ every year subsequent to dates used in this study.

Please stratify by age and sex if possible.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Shelly