

24 April 2024

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Tēnā koe Chris

### Your request for official information, reference: **HNZ00041853**

Thank you for your email on 25 March 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for datasets relating to the COVID vaccine under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

A copy of your request is included overleaf.

### Response

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora can provide vaccine type, by batch, by receipt and expiry date, by doses received, administered and wasted. Please refer to the “HNZ00041853 attachment” containing the data extracted from the Aotearoa Immunisation Register. This data was accurate as at 20 March 2024.

However, Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora cannot provide data “used on the pay per dose system”, as we do not capture that information. Therefore, that part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora, nor do we believe it is held by any other agency subject to the Act.

We are also refusing the remainder of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, because to make the information available would require substantial collation and research. In making this decision, we have considered extending the timeframe, or charging, as allowed under the Act. However, neither of these options have been offered as we have determined that providing this information would unreasonably interfere with the everyday functions of the teams involved.

### How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [HNZOIA@tewhaturora.govt.nz](mailto:HNZOIA@tewhaturora.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



### Nicola Birch

Chief Advisor, Prevention  
National Public Health Service

[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](http://TeWhatuOra.govt.nz)

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## Your request

### INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

*For the following request can you please extract from the Health NZ database the data “as is” in a machine readable csv format.*

*This is to assess the quality and completeness of the data being recorded so that the public and suitable analysts can make an independent assessment and extract any useful information.*

*Therefore there is no need for the data entry to be 100% complete or correct, nor for Health NZ staff to be diverted from other operational tasks to make any amendments. The dataset just needs to be extracted in the way that has been requested below by a DBA with knowledge of the relevant databases.*

### COLUMNS OF DATASET 1

*S0: Source Country – eg USA, Spain*

*S1: Manufacturer Name – e.g. Pfizer*

*S2: Product Name and Version/Code – eg there may be a nomenclature regarding initial doses and subsequent booster doses. This may be easier to extract as separate fields.*

*S3: Manufacturer Batch Number – as provided by the Manufacturer*

*S4: Number of Doses supplied – by the Manufacturer in that Batch*

*S5: Date of First Supply – the Minimum Date recorded for when a batch was received by Health NZ*

*S6: Date of Last Supply – the Maximum Date recorded for when a batch was received by Health NZ*

*D1: Pay Per Dose (PPD) Batch Number – the internal ID used on the Health NZ PPD system*

*D2: Sending Site – eg Name of the Pharmacy or Vax Centre*

*Sending Site Type – eg Pharmacy*

*D3: Number of Doses Recorded as Dispatched – as recorded in the relevant database at the time the query is run (without correction or alteration)*

*D4: Date of First Dispatch – the Minimum Date recorded for when a batch was dispatched to a Sending Site*

*D5: Date of Last Dispatch – the Maximum Date recorded for when a batch was dispatched to a Sending Site*

### NOTES ON DATA ITEMS

*N1: Columns marked S1 to S6 should be repeated where they relate to a dispatch from that supplied batch.*

*N2: S5 and S6 are less important and can be excluded if they are not available in the dataset.*

*N3: Null or zero entries may occur and Health NZ should provide a general explanation (not row by row in the dataset) of the reasons why these occur – eg data entry issues so some batch numbers are incorrect.*

*N4: Totals may not align – and the Health NZ should provide a general explanation (not row by row in the dataset) of the reasons why these occur – eg “business process not followed”, “doses lost”, “doses that were not stored corrected and were therefore wasted”.*

*N5: No quantification is required for the reasons above – just a reasonable bullet point list of the reasons that Health NZ is aware of from existing documentation and knowledge in the minds of public servants/officials.*

*N6: Please provide a description of the columns provided with details of any coding scheme/rules used to generate DATASET 1 or DATASET 2*

*N7: Where a supplied batch is dispatched multiple times to a Sending Site across multiple months then these records in the database would be grouped into one line.*

*N8: Where there is no Dispatch record to the Sending Site – the record of the administration of the dose to a person can be used as a proxy for the dispatch record – with the date of administration used instead of the date of dispatch.*

N9: For the avoidance of doubt, incorrect Batch IDs or other items are OK. This is an audit of the Health NZ data quality and an exercise in statistically extracting information of use for the public and professionals using techniques that have a high degree of fault tolerance.

#### EXAMPLE

For a Pfizer batch of 100 doses that was received all on 1/4/2021 split and sent to a Pharmacy (30) and a GP Practice (50) with 20 doses wasted during April 2021 the 2 lines in the csv file might look something like.

"USA","Pfizer","Vax1234","BatchABCD", 100, 01/04/2021, 01/04/2021, 11, "Pharmacy1234",  
"Pharmacy", 30, 15/04/2021,15/04/2021  
"USA","Pfizer","Vax1234","BatchABCD", 100, 01/04/2021, 01/04/2021, 11, "GP4567", "GP", 50,  
11/04/2021,26/04/2021

#### POSSIBLE EXCEPTION CONDITION – UNHANDLED MANY TO MANY RELATIONSHIP

N10: Where a dispatch contains items from many supplied batches the database should have separate records and this will be able to be split across two or more records for each supplied batch. If this many to many relationship is not handled in the database (that is end-to-end track-and-trace cannot be undertaken by Health NZ) then a) exclude these dispatches from the DATASET 1 above and b) please also provide a second dataset DATASET 2 with these dispatches and only include the following Columns:

#### DATASET 2

D1: Pay Per Dose (PPD) Batch Number – the internal ID used on the Health NZ PPD system

D2: Sending Site – eg Name of the Pharmacy or Vax Centre

Sending Site Type – eg Pharmacy

D3: Number of Doses Recorded as Dispatched – as recorded in the relevant database at the time the query is run (without correction or alteration)

D4: Date of First Dispatch – the Minimum Date recorded for when a batch was dispatched to a Sending Site

D5: Date of Last Dispatch – the Maximum Date recorded for when a batch was dispatched to a Sending Site

S0: Source Country – eg USA, Spain

S1: Manufacturer Name – e.g. Pfizer

S2: Product Name and Version/Code – eg there may be a nomenclature regarding initial doses and subsequent booster doses. This may be easier to extract as separate fields.

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S4: Number of Doses supplied – by the Manufacturer in that Batch

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S6: Date of Last Supply – the Maximum Date recorded for when a batch was received by Health NZ

N11: Where the affected dispatches are listed and duplicated across rows that identify the possible Manufacturer supplied batches that they could have come from. My suggestion is that the possible supplied batches for affected dispatched doses can be narrowed by a DBA using date ranges.

N12: Please name and state whether you have returned DATASET 1, DATASET 2 or both.

#### REASONABLENESS OF REQUEST

This request removes the need for any cleaning or completing of the data by Health NZ and will only require the services of a DBA/analyst to aggregate and group data that has been collected during the normal course of Health NZ's business.

This OIA does not require Health NZ to make any judgement about "fit for purpose" as this is an audit of what actually has been recorded in the database, and the judgement of what is useful will

*be able to be made by the receivers of the OIA's dataset.*

*No patient privacy issues are involved so there is no need to suppress counts less than a certain number.*

*No commercial issues are relevant as this OIA deals purely with dispatch not the number of doses administered – and there may be many reasons for payment to differ substantially from dispatch.*

*In order to establish data integrity and auditability (eg for wastage or quality control between supply and dispatch and other scenarios of interest), it is necessary to track by the relevant IDs supplied by the manufacturer and the PPD system maintained by the Health NZ.*

*This type of dataset request Health NZ has successfully fulfilled for past OIAs.*