

18 July 2024

Catherine Jamieson
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Tēnā koe Catherine

Your request for official information, reference: HN200054193

Thank you for your email on 26 June 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please advise by batch lot for the Pfizer Covid purple and grey cap monovalent vaccines which batches vials were labelled Comirnaty and which were labelled Pfizer BioNTech.

Response

Pfizer packaged vaccines using a number of different artworks, and it was possible for the following names to appear on labels, inserts and other associated packaging components: Product name: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine COVID-19 Vaccine COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine COMIRNATY. This was outlined in a letter to healthcare professionals which is available at this link: <https://medsafe.govt.nz/safety/DHCPLetters/ComirnatyFeb2021.pdf>

Vaccines were delivered by Pfizer from manufacturing plants to Healthcare Logistics (HCL) and DHL for distribution to vaccination sites directly. Therefore, the Ministry of Health and Health NZ did not sight the packaging for each batch of vaccine vials. For clarity, 78 batches have been received in 143 deliveries, and in order to determine which label was used on each batch of vials we would need to collect images of each batch from HCL and DHL as we do not hold these ourselves, and manually compare them against batch numbers.

In order to provide the information, you requested, Health NZ would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair Health New Zealand's ability to carry out our other core functions. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it requires substantial collation.

I have considered whether fixing a charge for the supply of the information or extending the timeframe for response would enable Health NZ to respond. I do not consider that either option would remove the impact that supplying the information would have on our other operations.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@tewhatauora.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 or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Danielle Coe

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