

30 July 2024

Chris McCashin
fyi-request-27474-0102a0b2@requests.fyi.org.nznz

Ref: OIA 113667

Tēnā koe Chris

Official Information Act request: Data breach

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2024, to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information about Barry Young's case. For clarity, I have numbered your request as follows:

1. *What specific whistleblower protections, if any, have been afforded to Barry Young in relation to his release of COVID-19 vaccine data?*
2. *Which officials or departments within the Ministry of Justice, if any, were notified about Barry Young's data release? Please provide details of when and how they were notified.*
3. *Please provide copies of any internal notes, communications, or correspondence between Ministry of Justice officials discussing Barry Young's case, including any communications with or involving the Coroner's office.*
4. *Has the Ministry of Justice received a copy of the data released by Barry Young? If so:*
 - a) *When was this data received?*
 - b) *From which agency or individual was it received?*
 - c) *Has the Ministry conducted any analysis of this data? If yes, please provide details of the analysis and any conclusions drawn.*
5. *What assessments, if any, has the Ministry conducted regarding the legal implications of Barry Young's actions under current whistleblower protection laws?*
6. *Has the Ministry provided any advice or guidance to other government agencies regarding the handling of this case? If so, please provide details.*
7. *What measures are in place to ensure the independence and separation of the Coroner's office from the Ministry of Justice, particularly in cases where there might be allegations of cover-ups or misconduct within the Coroner's office?*
8. *What protocols exist for investigating allegations of misconduct or cover-ups within the Coroner's office, and how does the Ministry of Justice maintain its oversight role while ensuring the Coroner's independence?*

Pursuant to section 15(1) of the Act, the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) has decided to partially grant your request. A response is being prepared; however, we require more time to finalise the information for release. The information will be provided to you as soon as practicable and no later than 9 August 2024. I apologise for any inconvenience this delay may cause you.

Please note that some information may be refused under the following sections of the Act:

- 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist, and
- 18(g) of the Act on the grounds that the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry or any other agency subject to the Act.

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at media@justice.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Morison', with a horizontal line underneath.

Jan Morison
Team Leader, Ministerial Relations and Services