

13 February 2025

Erika Whittome

By email: fyi-request-29775-9b927f20@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2025059340

Tēnā koe Erika

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 17 January 2025 for:

I note that the product Comirnaty which Medsafe approved has the following description on its data sheet:

"The active ingredient is a single-stranded, 5'-capped messenger RNA (mRNA) produced using a cell-free in vitro transcription from the corresponding DNA templates, encoding the viral spike (S) protein of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). "
<https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/Profs/datasheet/c/comirnatyinj.pdf>

1. *Is the messenger ribonucleic acid or mRNA a genetic material?*

This part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is publicly available. The information requested can be found here: www.genome.gov/about-genomics/educational-resources/fact-sheets/ribonucleic-acid-fact-sheet.

2. *What is the excretion and half-life of this active ingredient?*

This part of your request is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.

Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

3. *When does the messenger ribonucleic acid cease to give instructions to DNA in the human recipient? Is it hours? Days, Months, years?*

This part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is publicly available. The information requested can be found here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-11339-w>

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.

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.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris James', is positioned above the printed name.

Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe