

7 February 2025

File Ref: 250063

Erika Whittome  
fyi-request-29872-5d206c11@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Erika

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 24 January 2025. You requested:

*'I refer to your advice of 1st Dec 2021 "Our enforcement approach during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our inspectors are authorised enforcement officers under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 (COVID-19 legislation) and its Orders. Their role is to enforce COVID-19 legislation requirements for work and workplaces."*

- 1. How many fines were issued to unvaccinated health workers by your organization?*
- 2. How many fines issued to unvaccinated health workers by your organization were successfully collected?*
- 3. Would you kindly share the gazetting of these officers authorized to enforce covid orders?*

*I am aware of this info you gave, however this info request is just for health workers please.'*

WorkSafe did not issue any COVID-19 infringement notices to unvaccinated health workers during the pandemic. Consequently, WorkSafe did not collect any fines from unvaccinated health workers. As such, we need to refuse the first two parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

In accordance with section 18 of the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020, Dr Ashley Bloomfield as Director-General of the Ministry of Health, authorised inspectors appointed under section 163 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, who are employed by WorkSafe New Zealand ("WorkSafe Inspectors"), to carry out the functions and powers of an enforcement officer. I have included a link to section 18 the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 for your reference [COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 No 12 \(as at 26 November 2024\), Public Act 18 Authorised enforcement persons – New Zealand Legislation](#).

The authorisation of officers to enforce COVID-19 orders was not Gazetted. This information was published by the Ministry of Health on its website at the time. The information on the website did not name individuals, rather it identified which roles within specified organisations had enforcement powers during the pandemic.

The information published on the MoH website has been archived so it is no longer publicly available, however we have transferred that part of your request to MoH as they are the agency best placed to respond to that part of your request.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision, and further information is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

If you require further assistance, please contact [ministerial.services@worksafe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerial.services@worksafe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH White', written in a cursive style.

Kelly Hanson-White  
**Deputy Chief Executive Strategy and Insights**