

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



23 November 2021

Leah Wilson

fyi-request-17151-62fb010d@requests.fyi.org.nz

C19OIA2021011

Dear Leah

Official Information Act request regarding exemption from the COVID-19 Vaccine

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, transferred to this Office on 19 October 2021. You requested:

"I would like to know if government ministers and any other groups are exempt from the covid vaccine, please."

The COVID-19 vaccination programme is critical to the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our best defence against COVID-19. By getting vaccinated, people are protecting themselves, their whānau and playing their part in protecting New Zealand.

Being vaccinated against COVID-19 is mandatory for certain workforces due to the particular set of risk factors associated with the work they do, such as the population groups they work with. For further information on the vaccination programme, including workforces for which vaccination is mandatory and criteria for exemptions or exceptions, you can visit the following Ministry of Health website:

health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-mandatory-vaccinations

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response