Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

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Tēnā koe Tracy

Official information request HNZ00010969

Thank you for your email on 9 February 2023, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find a response to each part of your request below.

> *"to the Director of the National Immunisation Programme, Astrid Koornneef, Regarding your statement "We know that immunisations are critically important to the health of our tamariki. Having access to a COVID-19 vaccine will provide protection to younger children who would otherwise be at risk of severe illness if they were to get COVID-19," she said." here: https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=xLzk4yL65fTmmmQe-9AuF2bYFzlX30H4AkNoE02elg&u=https%3a%2f%2finsidegovernment%2eco%2enz%2fcovid-vaccine-available-for-at-risk-children%2f*
>
> *Please 1) provide the data that you used to make the above statement, that shows the Covid-19 vaccine will a) provide protection for children from getting covid and b) preventing children from severe covid illness*
>
> *2) provide the data that you used to make the statement "we know immunisations are critically important to the health of our tamariki".*
>
> *6) Please provide the Pfizer trial data that shows Comirnaty BioNTech is safe for under fiver year olds including the data given to you and Medsafe that allowed it to have provisional consent."*

On 27 February 2023, Te Whatu Ora transferred parts 1 and 2 of your request to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health). As Te Whatu Ora proceeded with our collation of information, we found that part 6 was also better suited to be answered by Manatū Hauora, hence we also transferred part 6 of your request to Manatū Hauora on 2 March 2023.

> *3) clarify if Covid-19 gene therapy injection for this age group has "provisional consent" or "Medsafe approval" - I thought that they were two different things.*

While the Act allows New Zealanders to ask for information from Ministers and government agencies, there is no requirement for agencies to create new information, compile information they do not hold or provide or prove an opinion. Your question(s) and the statements that support them appear designed to engage in a debate about the Government's COVID-19 vaccination programme, rather than a request for official information. The Act does not support requests where an opinion, comment, argument, or hypothetical statement is put to Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand for response, couched as a request for information. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) on the grounds that it is not held by Te Whatu Ora.

> *4) confirm that you have read the data regarding Comirnaty BioNTech injection being associated with acute kidney disease https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=xLzk4yL65fTmmmQe-9AuF2bYFzlX30H4AhFqEEDOkA&u=https%3a%2f%2fpubmed%2encbi%2enlm%2enih%2egov%2f35632497%2f*

:https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=xLzk4yL65fTmmmQe-9AuF2bYFzlX30H4AhA9Qk6czQ&u=https%3a%2f%2fpubmed%2encbi%2enlm%2enih%2egov%2f35214760%2f" "https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=xLzk4yL65fTmmmQe-9AuF2bYFzlX30H4AhFpFBzKwg&u=https%3a%2f%2fpapers%2essrn%2ecom%2fsol3%2fpapers%2ecfm%3fabstract%5fid%3d4329970" that shows greatly increased rate of AKI and myo/pericarditis here in New Zealand

The Programme has a dedicated function that supports the safety monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines in collaboration with Medsafe, New Zealand's medicines safety authority. I, as the Interim Director, Prevention, am briefed on potential safety concerns with COVID-19 vaccines including local fatality reports where there could be a link to a COVID-19 vaccine.

5) confirm that you have read the CARM reports regarding Comirnaty BioNTech injection being associated with myocarditis, pericarditis and death (CARM, based on information at the AEFI-line-listing) (https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=xLzk4yL65fTmmmQe-9AuF2bYFzlX30H4AkQ_GxvPwQ&u=https%3a%2f%2fdrtrozzi%2eorg%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2022%2f01%2fPfizer-Cumulative-Analysis-of-Post-authorization-Adverse-Event-Reports%2epdf)

The Programme has undertaken research to help understand the safety profile of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. I, as the Interim Director, Prevention, am briefed on all programme research including any final study papers and potential safety concerns associated with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@health.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.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on Health NZ's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Astrid Koornneef
Interim Director, Prevention
National Public Health Service
Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand