



133 Molesworth Street  
PO Box 5013  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand  
T+64 4 496 2000

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Erika Whittome

By email: [fyi-request-24076-361e7a7d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24076-361e7a7d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: H2023031525

Tēnā koe Erika

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 8 September 2023 for information regarding exemptions for unvaccinated workers under clause 9(a) of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021. You requested:

- “1. How many such 9a requests were received from PCBUs?”*
- “2. How many were approved by the Director General?”*
- “3. A breakdown by industry for the above two items.”*

As you may be aware, we have recently undergone a health system reform which resulted in the establishment of new agencies Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand and Te Aka Whai Ora – Māori Health Authority on 1 July 2022. As such, a number of functions and teams that once sat within Manatū Hauora transferred to the new agencies. Specifically, the COVID-19 operational functions transferred to Te Whatu Ora.

Since then, the COVID-19 health system response has begun to wind down, along with the revocation of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 on 26 September 2022, and a number of teams that were stood up during the pandemic have ceased to exist, with some staff no longer working at either Manatū Hauora or Te Whatu Ora.

As a result, and despite our best efforts, we have been unable to successfully locate the information you have requested. We have searched for the requested information with the respective teams at Manatū Hauora and have not found any such records. We have also consulted with Te Whatu Ora to determine whether they hold this information, but they have also not been successful. As such the information you have requested regarding clause 9(a) exemptions is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested cannot be found despite reasonable efforts to locate it.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



Jan Torres

**Manager OIA Services**

**Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga**