

29 February 2024

C177729

Colin Whiting
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Tēnā koe Colin

Thank you for your request of 31 January 2024 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about clause 7A and 9B exemptions from the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccination) Order 2021. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested, in response to information previously provided by Corrections under the OIA (our reference C176430):

How it was possible for 220 Corrections staff to be exempted from having a Covid19 vaccination booster under clause 7A, when clause 7A was replaced by clause 9B on the 12th November 2021. It is my understanding that at the time any unvaccinated Corrections staff who had received an exemption under clause 7A, had to re-apply to receive an exemption under clause 9B. My understanding of your reply, (along with your reply from a previous FOIA request) is therefore that 220 fully vaccinated Corrections staff prior to November 12th 2021, were exempted under clause 7A from having to receive a Covid19 vaccination booster, because they had contracted Covid19.

Corrections needs to extend the timeframe of our response to your request by 15 working days, pursuant to section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA, as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit. Therefore, you can expect to receive a response to your request by 21 March 2024. If you no longer require this information, please let us know as soon as possible.

Please be advised that should you have any concerns regarding this response you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate our decision to extend the timeframe. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nic Barkley', written in a cursive style.

Nic Barkley
Manager Ministerial Services
People and Capability