

29 February 2024

Helen Wallis
fyi-request-25150-c263469c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Helen

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00034491

Thank you for your email on 12 December 2023, asking for information relating to COVID-19 vaccination under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find each part of your request addressed below.

Please provide in full the non personalised data for all covid 19 vaccinations that do not relate to the pay per dose system. As I understand it the data includes amongst other things

*Vaccine Batch Number
Site of Vaccination
Dates of Vaccination
Dates of Birth (can be year only to protect privacy)
Dates of Death and cause of death*

*Please be as detailed as possible without breaching privacy.
Raw data is also acceptable*

With regard to your request for COVID-19 vaccination and death data, the Act enables people to request official information from Ministers and agencies, including Health NZ. However, the OIA only applies to information that is already held by an agency. There is no obligation on Health NZ to create information in order to respond to a request.

We have received several similar OIA requests asking for deaths and covid vaccination status data over the past two months. These requests, including yours, require the creation of new information and would require significant resource to collate. Because of this, we are refusing your request under sections 18(f) and 18(g) of the Act. Instead, in acknowledgement of the public interest, we have consolidated the requirements from all OIA requests asking for deaths and covid vaccination status data and produced a standard dataset (see enclosed).

We acknowledge that the standard dataset provided may not meet all your requirements or may provide more detail than requested. Due to the work required to create this information and the available resources, this is the best we can do without severely impacting our other functions. Where more detail has been provided than requested, you will be able to aggregate the data up to the level you desire.

The following information is related to your request and may be of interest.

Mortality rates, not including cause of death, are publicly available online from Stats NZ. They publish mortality statistics here: www.stats.govt.nz/tools/stats-infoshare. Select 'Populations', and then 'Deaths'. For information about cause of death, Health NZ has a mortality web tool that presents mortality and demographic data for deaths registered in New Zealand from 1948 to 2020.

The web tool is available at the following link: www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/our-health-system/data-and-statistics/mortality-web-tool.

Currently, 2018 is the most recent year for which finalised cause-specific mortality data is available. Preliminary data is available for 2019 and 2020.

After the close of a calendar year, there is a 12–18 month process to assign cause-of-death codes to the majority of deaths in that year. Health NZ's clinical coding team reviews the death certificate and health history of the deceased to assign cause of death codes. Approximately 10% of deaths are referred to the coroner each year to determine cause. Deaths which require a coronial inquiry can take 2-3 or more years for cause of death to be assigned. We do not make mortality data available publicly until the majority of deaths have been assigned a cause of death, so that the data we release is complete and accurate. The Chief Coroner has noted delays in the time it is taking them to determine cause of death.

You may also be interested in the COVID-19 cases and deaths data published at: www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/our-health-system/data-and-statistics/covid-19-data/covid-19-case-demographics/.

Can you also provide as follows

- A list of all journalists / media who have requested this data / seen it

We have not identified any requests received from journalists or media organisations for deaths and COVID-19 vaccination status data.

- A list of external parties outside of government agencies who have this data - if any

We do not hold information as to which external parties may have seen this data. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

- a list of all government officials and departments who have access to or accessed this data.

COVID-19 vaccination records are available to health professionals for medical purposes.

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 our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Danielle Coe

**Manager (OIA) Government Services
Office of the Chief Executive**

TeWhatuOra.govt.nz

Health NZ, PO Box 793,
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government