

27 February 2023

Erika Whittome

By email: [fyi-request-21874-f14a46a6@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-21874-f14a46a6@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2023020621

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 18 February 2023, for information regarding the listing of Adverse Effects Following Immunisation (AEFI) case numbers for the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine. You requested:

*“The AEFI listing on Medsafe’s webpage for Comirnaty contains records for Adverse Events with a AEFI Case number. This is on <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/safety-report-46.asp> This case number starts at AEFI-A-000000, AEFI-A-000001, AEFI-A-000002 and appears to sequentially increment by an integer number up to AEFI-A-079517 (dated Nov 2022). Where are the following records which do not follow the sequence and appear to be gaps:  
AEFI-A-000003  
AEFI-A-013886 (Aug-21) through to AEFI-A-020096 (Aug-21) which is 6 thousand plus missing records  
AEFI-A-000017  
AEFI-A-079490  
AEFI-A-079493  
AEFI-A-079505”*

I refer you to the AEFI listing spreadsheet in Medsafe’s COVID-19 Vaccines Safety Reports. The spreadsheet states that AEFI numbers may be missing for various reasons as listed below:

- The report was deemed invalid (see “valid report” for more details)
- The report was for a medication error
- AEFI was for a different country
- AEFI number only roughly reflects the submission time of the report

AEFI-A numbers are not sequential, they should be used solely as a case identifier not as a sequential listing of all received adverse reaction reports. Salesforce is the platform Manatū Hauora uses to submit adverse reactions to. Salesforce does not provide an auto-number sequence due to the nature of parallel processing occurring in the platform. This is explained in Salesforces platform help article at:

<https://help.salesforce.com/s/articleView?id=000383836&type=1>.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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



Chris James  
**Group Manager**  
**Medsafe**