

28 March 2024

R Kingi

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Tēnā koe

**Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00034811**

Thank you for your email on 18 December 2023, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Health NZ makes the following claim on their website with respect to the mRNA products, such as pfizer: "The genetic code then gets broken down and removed very quickly and easily by our body."*

<https://info.health.nz/immunisations/vaccines-aotearoa/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccines-aotearoa/> Last updated: 21 November 2023

Archived: <http://web.archive.org/web/2023121620084>

*There are many articles in the literature that note the modified mRNA is detected for quite some time post injection,  
eg <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/article...>, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36647776/>  
Given that, I request all advice, notes, communications, etc., that relate to how the wording above (quoted) was arrived at.*

**Response**

We apologise for the delay in providing our response. In response to your request, while this statement was correct to the best of our knowledge at that time it was used, there has since been further research regarding mRNA vaccines. We now know that the vaccine is gone from the blood very quickly but can stay in the body (in places such as the lymph nodes) for longer. Information about this can be referenced on the European Medicines Agency website; [www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory-overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-19-medicines/covid-19-vaccines-key-facts](http://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory-overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-19-medicines/covid-19-vaccines-key-facts)

Our website will be updated accordingly within the next month.

Your request for all advice, notes, and communications that relate to how the wording above (quoted) was arrived at, is refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act because the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

## How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nzOIA@tewhaturora.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@tewhaturora.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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Alana Ewe-Snow**

**Director, Prevention**

**National Public Health Service**

**TeWhatuOra.govt.nz**

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**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government