

17 May 2024

§ 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024040015

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 22 April 2024 for information regarding the Nuvaxovid XXBB 1.5 (Novavax) vaccine. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

*Please provide copies of all correspondence from MedSafe to Novavax, or its representative Biocelect New Zealand, regarding the delayed approval for Novavax NUVAXOVID XBB.1.5 vaccine.*

There is no correspondence from Medsafe to Novavax or its representative Biocelet New Zealand regarding the delayed approval of the Nuvaxovid XXBB 1.5 (Novavax) vaccine. Therefore, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

*Please include copies of correspondence from Medsafe requesting additional information on each of these dates:*

- 20/12/23
- 9/2/24
- 11/3/24

*In addition, please include copies of internal memos, workings, analysis, citations and other papers supporting the decision to request additional information from the applicant/sponsor on each of these dates.*

Information in scope of this part of your request is withheld in full under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act, to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely damage the public interest. I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing information and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Medsafe received an application for the Nuvaxovid XBB 1.5 (Novavax) vaccine for approval under section 23 of the Medicines Act on 30 October 2023. The approval status of COVID-19 vaccines applications received by Medsafe can be found here: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp#NuvaxovidXBB](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp#NuvaxovidXBB).

Information about the COVID-19 vaccine evaluation and approval process is available at: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-approval-process.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-approval-process.asp).

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



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