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31 May 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024041128

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your follow up request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 8 May 2024 for information regarding the correlation of COVID-19 vaccines and COVID-19 reinfection. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

1. Has Ministry of Health been, or not been, “following the science” around this issue, as such data has been published in reputable scientific journals? (This includes articles which raise concerns about these medical interventions increasing the risks of COVID-19 reinfections)

As per your previous request, the Ministry has not performed internal analyses and/or correlation between the reinfection rates and the number of COVID-19 vaccines. This has not changed from the past response.

The Ministry does collect data and calculate basic statistics, including case numbers, reinfections, and booster numbers. Please note that this data is owned by Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora (HNZOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz).

The Ministry keeps across international literature (published in reputable scientific journals) on reinfections and vaccines.

The Ministry does not perform this kind of internal analysis of the data to correlate reinfections with vaccine numbers, as per the reasons mentioned in the previous response.

*2. Considering the claim that “the requested correlation of COVID reinfection rates to numbers of COVID vaccines is not held by the Ministry”,
2a. On what basis does The Ministry of Health continue to maintain that these medical interventions are safe and effective?*

The Ministry maintains that COVID-19 vaccinations are safe and effective, as per the published evidence and data that is also reviewed and discussed with experts. Further information about

this can be found here: www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/corporate-information/about-us/expert-groups/covid-19-vaccine-technical-advisory-group-cv-tag/.

In addition, as part of the Ministry of Health, Medsafe monitors the safety of COVID-19 vaccines and medicines. Further information about this can be found here:

www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/safety-monitoring.asp.

The Ministry maintains regular surveillance of all arising variants of SARS-CoV-2 in Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as international literature on these variants.

2b. How is this consistent with The Ministry of Health's commitments and assurances to actively and proactively monitor the safety and efficacy of these medical interventions?

The active and proactive monitoring of the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines and medicines is continuous and ongoing through the COVID-19 response, as described above.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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:

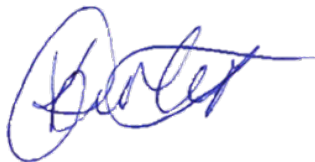
oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Kristie Carter

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