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11 July 2024

s 9(2)(a)

By email: **s 9(2)(a)**
Ref: H2024044989

Tēnā koe **s 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 June 2024. You requested:

“Please provide a list of members of the COVID-19 TAG team. Please include their qualifications, and please note if they are clinicians or academics.

For each member of the COVID-19 TAG team, please disclose any conflicts of interest. By conflicts of interest I include:

Stock or warrants or options of Pfizer, Merck, and/or Gilead pharmaceutical companies or their subsidiaries for the benefit of a TAG team member, their family, and/or family trusts – whether directly, via an ETF, other financial vehicle, or promissory instrument,

Any quid pro quo related to purchases of the Pfizer vaccine or other products by Pfizer, Merck, and/or Gilead or representatives,

Any quid pro quo related to the uptake of the Pfizer vaccine, or other products by Pfizer, Merck, and/or Gilead or representatives, and/or

Arrangements, promises, or suggestions that could be construed as beneficial to a TAG team member and/or their family made by Pfizer, Merck, Gilead, the WHO, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, GAVI, or representatives of such

I have interpreted your request to be referring to the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (COVID TAG).

You can find members of this group on the Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora website here: www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/corporate-information/about-us/expert-groups/covid-19-technical-advisory-group/.

The Ministry does not hold any qualification information regarding the members therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by us and we have no grounds to believe it is held by other agencies.

Please see attached table – Appendix 1 which indicates whether members are clinicians or academics along with their disclosures and conflicts of interests.

No COVID TAG members declared holdings of any stock or warrants or options of Pfizer, Merck, and/or Gilead pharmaceutical companies or their subsidiaries for the benefit of a TAG team member, their family, and/or family trusts – whether directly, via an ETF, other financial vehicle, or promissory instrument.

Furthermore, no COVID TAG members declared any quid pro quo related to purchases of the Pfizer vaccine or other products by Pfizer, Merck, and/or Gilead or representatives, any quid pro quo related to the uptake of the Pfizer vaccine, or other products by Pfizer, Merck, and/or Gilead or representatives, and/or any arrangements, promises, or suggestions that could be construed as beneficial to a TAG team member and/or their family made by Pfizer, Merck, Gilead, the WHO, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, GAVI, or representatives of such.

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



Jane Chambers
Acting Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

Appendix 1

For each member of the COVID-TAG Team, please disclose any conflicts of interest.

Response:

| Name | Disclosures | Clinician/Academic |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Dr Matire Harwood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee, Faculty Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland Salaried GP, Papakura Marae Health Clinic, Papakura Board Member, Applause NGO Board Member, Medical Research Institute of NZ | Clinician and academic |
| Dr Virginia Hope | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee, ESR | Clinician |
| Professor Nigel French | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recipient of research funding from the Health Research Council and MBIE Co-Director of One Health Aotearoa | Academic |
| Dr Nigel Raymond | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infectious Disease and General Physician, Capital and Coast DHB Chair, New Zealand subcommittee of the Australian Society of Infectious Diseases Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, University of Otago Wellington | Clinician |
| Professor Michael Baker | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recipient of research funding from the Health Research Council and private donations (no personal financial benefit) | Academic |
| Dr Nicholas Jones | None recorded | Clinician |
| Dr Collin Tukuitonga | Nil | Clinician and academic |
| Dr Michelle Balm | Nil | Clinician |
| Dr Anja Werno | Nil | Clinician and academic |
| Dr Bryan Betty | Nil | Clinician |
| Dr Erasmus Smit | Nil | Clinician |
| Dr Sally Roberts | Nil | Clinician |
| Dr Shanika Perera | Nil | Clinician |