

20 January 2022

Email: <https://www.data.govt.nz/datasetrequest>s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H202200138

Tēnā koe

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 (the Ministry) on 17 December 2021 for:

“...statistics on the above rates (stillbirths, preterm labour, malformations and adverse health outcomes pre and post Pfizer vaccination roll out. March 2019 - Current date). Information to be included: How many of these mothers were vaccinated with Pfizer during pregnancy. Is there any correlation between these outcomes and vaccinated mothers? -- Has there been a increase in stillbirths, preterm labour, malformations and adverse health outcomes since the rollout of the Pfizer vaccination.”

The information is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information, in its requested form, is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by any other agency subject to the Act.

Providing the information would require the Ministry to create information by linking and cross-referencing several different datasets and doing so would involve substantial collation. This would be considered ‘substantial’ as it would have a significant and unreasonable impact on the Ministry and its ability to carry out critical operations.

In addition to this collation, there are difficulties in accurately defining the start of pregnancy using health data, and miscarriage is not systematically recorded when it occurs very early in pregnancy. The Ministry is therefore unable to provide you with the complete data you have requested at this time, as we do not receive information about all pregnancies nor miscarriages. Difficulties of obtaining this data are explained in a publication on the Wiley Online Labara at: www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pds.4671.

Further information related to the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy can be found at the following links:

- Medsafe advice on the safety of the vaccine during pregnancy at: www.medsafe.govt.nz/safety/Alerts/covid-19-vaccination-in-pregnancy.asp.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention research at: www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0811-vaccine-safe-pregnant.html and www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html.
- Research Square study at: www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-798175/v1.

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 Ministry of Health website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gaynor Bradfield
**Manager, Office of the Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital**