



14 February 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2023/24-0406

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to information relating to the safety and effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 9 January 2024. You requested:

- 1) any information about what "safe and effective" was understood to mean by DPMC and/ or the former and/ or current government including any cabinet advice or advice to any ministers about this and/ or communications with anyone from Ministry of health, Unite Against Covid, IMAC (Immunisation Advisory Centre) and/ or any international organisations in relation to communications for Covid vaccines*
- 2) And advice or other information generated by or received from external sources by DPMC or any Minister about what information was required to be given to doctors, vaccinators and/ or the public to promote and/ or ensure "informed consent" in relation to vaccination since 1Jan 2020*
- 3) Any information about how to reconcile deaths or serious adverse effects suffered from or soon after COVID vaccines with "safe and effective" messaging*
- 4) any advice about the need to change from the safe and effective messaging to avoid conflict with the informed consent, medicines act or the Fair Trading Act.*
- 5) Any information created in or shared in DPMC in response to the Facebook post by former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern that the PfizerVax was safe and the thousands of posts from affected members of the public that it was not.*
- 6) Any information prepared within or shared to DPMC and/ or to Ministry of Health or any Minister about the risks and/ or consequences of an injection without informed consent causing injury.*

Part six of your request was transferred to Te Whatu Ora, accordingly, this response addresses questions one to five of your request. You can expect a response to question six from Te Whatu Ora.

In response to question one, we have considered your question and assessed the amount of work it would require to be able to respond. It would require a considerable amount of research and collation. Therefore, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

In response to question two, three and four, the Ministry of Health (MoH) was the lead agency in relation to vaccine safety. The vaccine's public information campaign was previously developed and funded by the Ministry of Health, working in partnership with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to ensure a complementary and

holistic approach to campaign activity. DPMC was responsible for administering the Vaccine Campaign budget. The development of information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and the vaccine campaign was the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, not DPMC.

It is not possible to identify information in scope of question five of your request. Please note, that information relating to social media posts could have been shared in a range of contexts, including in regard to misinformation and disinformation.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward
**Executive Director,
Strategy, Governance and Engagement**