

# Official Information Act Request

## Requester's details

**Date:** 28 October 2021

**Name:** Maxwell

**Email:** [fyi-request-17092-10630329@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17092-10630329@requests.fyi.org.nz)

**Reference number:** ENQ-42734-D0L4J7

Dear Maxwell

I refer to your request received on 8 October 2021 for the following information relating to the SARSCoV-2 vaccine BNT162b2 (COMIRNATY):

“Can you please explain why this product would not be classed as a substance and/or hazardous substance under the HSNO Act 1996 and provide any documentation/correspondence held by the EPA or related entities which would lead to not determining as such?”

Comirnaty was not assessed for classification as a hazardous substance under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (the Act), because human medicines are exempt from the hazardous substances provisions of the Act, as per clause 6 of the Hazardous Substances (Hazard Classification) Notice 2020:

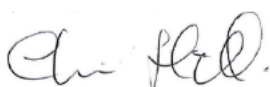
<https://gazette.govt.nz/assets/pdf-cache/2020/2020-au4842.pdf?2020-12-17%20%3A50%3A42=>.

I hope this information is helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via [ministerials@epa.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@epa.govt.nz)

We may publish your request and our response on our website, [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz). We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Yours sincerely



Dr Christopher Hill

**General Manager, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms**