

30 SEP 2019

James Scott
By email: fyi-request-11152-de2118fc@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H201907919

Dear Mr Scott

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 6 September 2019 for:

- “1). Number of confirmed measles cases in New Zealand.
- 2). Immunisation status of confirmed measles cases in New Zealand.
- 3). Number of deaths attributed to Measles cases in New Zealand.
- 4). Number of deaths from vaccine injuries.
- 5). Number of deaths from SIDS.
- 6). number of hospitalisations from vaccine injuries.

In addition, a brief explanation of how immunisations are acquired and how any risks associated with vaccination are balanced against the rewards of an immunisation programme. If any of the statistics being sought in 1-6 above are not held, how are you (The Ministry) satisfied that these risk(s) are being managed appropriately.”

Information in response to your request is outlined in Appendix 1 of this letter.

I trust that this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry of Health website.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention

Appendix 1

#	Requested information	Response												
1	<i>Number of confirmed measles cases in New Zealand.</i>	<p>The Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) frequently publishes measles surveillance reports on their website: https://surv.esr.cri.nz/. The reports summarise confirmed measles notifications for a particular surveillance week, broken down by age group, vaccination status, and district health board. These parts of your request are therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the requested information is publicly available.</p>												
2	<i>Immunisation status of confirmed measles cases in New Zealand.</i>													
3	<i>Number of deaths attributed to Measles cases in New Zealand.</i>													
4	<i>Number of deaths from vaccine injuries.</i>	<p>A report on vaccine-related deaths (between 2000 to 2019) is publicly available on the Medsafe website at the following address: https://medsafe.govt.nz/publications/OIA/19Sept19ADRReportsWithDeath.pdf. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act.</p>												
5	<i>Number of deaths from SIDS.</i>	<p>The table below shows the count of all Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) mortalities between 2012 and 2016. Please note that 2016 is the most recent year for which this data is currently available, as publishing mortality data involves numerous data quality processes. Generally, provisional data becomes available around two years after the end of the year</p> <p>Table 1. SIDS deaths between 2012 and 2016</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Deaths</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>42</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There is no evidence of a link between MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).</p>	Year	Deaths	2012	37	2013	41	2014	45	2015	44	2016	42
Year	Deaths													
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#	Requested information	Response
6	<i>Number of hospitalisations from vaccine injuries.</i>	<p>This part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the requested information is not held by the Ministry and is not believed to be held by another agency subject to the Act.</p> <p>For your information, the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) is responsible for processing 'treatment injury claims' and may hold some information that may be relevant to your request. You can submit a request to ACC at the following address: https://acc.co.nz/contact-request-info/.</p>
7	<i>A brief explanation of how immunisations are acquired and how any risks associated with vaccination are balanced against the rewards of an immunisation programme. If any of the statistics being sought in 1-6 above are not held, how are you (The Ministry) satisfied that these risk(s) are being managed appropriately</i>	<p>Immunisation works by triggering the immune system's memory to fight against vaccine-preventable diseases. It stops the disease from developing or reduces the severity of the disease. Detailed information of the immunisation process is available on the Ministry website and the <i>Immunisation Handbook 2017</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/immunisation • https://health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/immunisation-handbook-2017-2nd-ed-mar18-v4.html. <p>Generally, any vaccine (or medicine) can cause side effects. Usually, these side effects are minor (a low-grade fever, fussiness and soreness at the injection site). Some vaccines may cause a temporary headache, fatigue or loss of appetite; however, serious vaccine side effects are very rare. The risk of a vaccine causing serious harm or death is extremely small. The benefits of getting a vaccine are much greater than the possible side effects for almost all children.</p> <p>The Ministry has also recently published a response to an official information request relating to the association between measles and the MMR vaccine: https://health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/information-release/h201906326.pdf.</p>