

17 February 2021

Virginia Crawford

By email: [fyi-request-14465-65be6ac8@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14465-65be6ac8@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: H202100306

Dear Virginia Crawford

### **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 21 January 2021 for:

*"Whilst I understand that treatment costs would be met by ACC in the event of serious side effects from a covid vaccine, what I really want to know is if monetary compensation would be available to anyone suffering damage (or even death). If the vaccine(s) is deemed "safe and effective" by government agencies, then it should follow that monetary compensation be awarded if the vaccine is shown to be unsafe.*

*To facilitate acceptance and uptake of the vaccine(s) by the general populace, people should have the reassurance of compensation if something goes wrong. Will the government give that reassurance?"*

Any compensation (in addition to treatment costs) would be as available through The Accident Compensation Corporation. Where an approved vaccine is administered appropriately, it is not considered that there would be any basis for any legal liability on the part of the government or other persons.

I trust 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. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto: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 website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Yours sincerely



Mathew Parr  
**Programme Director, COVID-19 Immunisation**  
**COVID-19 Health System Response**