

20 April 2021

Tania Marinkovich

By email: [fyi-request-14962-e091e5ca@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14962-e091e5ca@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
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Ref: H202104616

Dear Tania Marinkovich

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for information about the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine.

On 16 April 2021, in response to a letter and an email from the Ministry about “the ramifications of mass vaccinations,” you sent the following email:

*“These are the side effects for the Pfizer vaccine as listed on Vigiaccess collaborating with WHO*

*Blood and lymphatic system disorders (21235)*

*Cardiac disorders (18884)*

*Congenital, familial and genetic disorders (127)*

*Ear and labyrinth disorders (13770)*

*Endocrine disorders (278)*

*Eye disorders (16150)*

*Gastrointestinal disorders (120915)*

*General disorders and administration site conditions (339661)*

*Hepatobiliary disorders (498)*

*Immune system disorders (5677)*

*Infections and infestations (24777)*

*Injury, poisoning and procedural complications (12693)*

*Investigations (32217)*

*Metabolism and nutrition disorders (12327)*

*Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders (175197)*

*Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (incl cysts and polyps) (319)*

*Nervous system disorders (244126)*

*Pregnancy, puerperium and perinatal conditions (386)*

*Product issues (351)*

*Psychiatric disorders (20259)*

*Renal and urinary disorders (3175)*

*Reproductive system and breast disorders (3856)*

*Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders (43986)*

*Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders (65073)*

*Social circumstances (1672)*

*Surgical and medical procedures (2060)*

*Vascular disorders (21644)*

*This is what our government has listed:  
pain at the injection site  
a headache  
feeling tired or fatigued  
muscle aches  
feeling generally unwell  
chills  
fever  
joint pain  
nausea..."*

Later in the same day (16 April), you sent this email:

*"Please provide the New Zealand Public with a full list of all injuries and deaths caused by the Pfizer covid 19 vaccine so far."*

As both requests were made on the same day and are about the same subject, the Ministry is responding to them in one response.

Regarding your first request, as far as it is possible to ascertain, it appears you are asking the Ministry to comment on a list of adverse drug reactions listed on the VigiAccess website of the Uppsala Monitoring Centre and the WHO Programme for International Drug Monitoring, and those listed by Medsafe, New Zealand's Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority.

While the Act enables people to request official information from the Ministry, it only applies to information it holds. There is no obligation to create information in order to respond to requests, nor is the Ministry obliged to prove an opinion. This query, and those that preceded it, appear to be efforts to engage in a debate about the merits of COVID-19 vaccination, rather than a legitimate request to the Ministry for official information. The Act does not support requests in which a requester quotes information and then seeks some form of comment on it, couched as a request for official information. I am, therefore, refusing this part of your request, under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

Regarding your second request, safety reports of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) with COVID-19 vaccines are published at: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp). As at 13 March 2021, 215 cumulative AEFI have been reported, six of which were deemed serious. There were no deaths. I am, therefore, refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act on the grounds that the information is publicly available.

As you have previously been advised, 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.

Yours sincerely



Nick Allan  
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