

Athina Andonatonou

By email: fyi-request-14982-bcadc163@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202103354

Dear Athina Andonatonou

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 23 March 2021. I shall respond to each part of your request below:

“1) What evidence has our government used to support the validity of the Pcr test?”

Evidence supporting the validity of the Covid-19 RT-PCR tests in use includes:

- Robust validation of the tests, both internationally and within New Zealand
- Participation of the NZ laboratories using the tests in both internal and external quality assurance programmes, with acceptable performance, as required by the laboratory accreditation standard
- The overall success of the elimination strategy to date
- The additional validation of positive results provided by whole genome sequencing

The Ministry has proactively published several responses under the Act that specifically discuss PCR testing. They are available at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

You may also want to review the *PubMed* website of the National Library of Medicine, which is part of the National Institutes of Health. *PubMed* (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) is a free resource supporting the search and retrieval of biomedical and life sciences literature and contains many peer reviewed journal articles on COVID-19 and PCR testing.

2) The vaccine by Pfizer has been granted provisional consent so that it can be used in emergency situations, what evidence is used to support that we're in an emergency situation?”

Provisional consent is not linked to emergency use and the reasons for using provisional consent can vary depending on the medicine. The *Gazette* notice published when provisional consent was granted stated its use was for an urgent clinical need. The notice is publicly available at: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/Comirnaty-Gazette.pdf.

3) What if any of the 58 conditions, which Pfizer is expected to address have been addressed?”

This part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, that this soon will be publicly available.

- 4) *What other vaccinations in New Zealand have been granted indemnity?*
5) *Pfizer has a track record of unethical and immoral actions, was this a consideration when deciding to purchase the vaccine from them. If not, why not? And why have they been granted indemnity?*

Parts 4 and 5 of your request were transferred to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 30 March 2021. You can expect a response from MBIE in due course.

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 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.

Yours sincerely



Darryl Carpenter
Group Manager COVID-19 Immunisation, Testing & Supply
COVID-19 Health System Response