

16 August 2021

Ross Francis

By email: [fyi-request-16112-253b7f9b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-16112-253b7f9b@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202109625

Tēnā koe Ross

### **Partial transfer of your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 28 July 2021 for information relating to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Part of your request asks:

*“New Zealand has reportedly purchased 10 million doses of Pfizer’s Covid-19 vaccine. At an estimated price of \$28 per dose, the cost to New Zealand taxpayers would be in the vicinity of \$280 million. Pfizer’s profit is estimated to be \$80 million from sale of the vaccine in New Zealand. Before it agreed to purchase the vaccine, did the New Zealand Government ask Pfizer, or any of its representatives, to pay (either partly or fully) for the cost of treating possible serious side-effects in New Zealand? If so, what was the value of any suggested contribution and what was Pfizer’s response?”*

This part of your request is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). For this reason, I have decided to transfer your request to MBIE under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. 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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Nick Allan  
**Manager OIA Services**  
**Office of the Director-General**

## Copy of OIA request

**From:** Ross Francis <fyi-request-16112-253b7f9b@requests.fyi.org.nz>

**Sent:** Sunday, 18 July 2021 8:32 am

**To:** Information [DPMC] <information@dpmc.govt.nz>

**Subject:** Official Information request - Covid-19 Vaccines - Serious Side Effects

Dear Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet,

New Zealand has reportedly purchased 10 million doses of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine. At an estimated price of \$28 per dose, the cost to New Zealand taxpayers would be in the vicinity of \$280 million. Pfizer's profit is estimated to be \$80 million from sale of the vaccine in New Zealand.

Before it agreed to purchase the vaccine, did the New Zealand Government ask Pfizer, or any of its representatives, to pay (either partly or fully) for the cost of treating possible serious side-effects in New Zealand? If so, what was the value of any suggested contribution and what was Pfizer's response?

During the Prime Minister's meetings with Pfizer in 2021, was the issue of possible serious side-effects discussed? If so, please provide me with all information held about any such discussion(s).

According to information held, how many people (if any) may suffer serious side-effects from the Covid-19 vaccine(s) in New Zealand?

On 22 October 2020, Steven Anderson (Director, Office of Biostatistics and Epidemiology) presented various slides to the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee. One slide, which appeared for no more than half a second, stated that there were possible adverse events from Covid-19 vaccines. The adverse events included but were not limited to:

- Arthritis and arthralgia/joint pain
- Convulsions/seizures
- Stroke
- Narcolepsy and cataplexy
- Anaphylaxis
- Acute myocardial infarction
- Autoimmune disease
- Pregnancy and birth outcomes
- Kawasaki disease
- Vaccine enhanced disease
- Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children Deaths

On 11 December 2020, the Food and Drug Administration in the US approved the Pfizer vaccine.

According to information held by your department, what information was produced between 22 October and 11 December 2020 to diminish concerns about the above adverse events?

Yours faithfully,  
Ross Francis