

9 September 2021

Matariki Monahan

By email: fyi-request-16403-fb226150@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202110508

Tēnā koe Matariki

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) received on 16 August 2021 for information about the COVID-19 immunisation register.

Each part of your request is responded to below:

“What considerations were given to Amazon and its consortium of partners, including Salesforce’s, wider investment plans for Aotearoa-New Zealand when the Ministry of Health decided to buy a Covid vaccination register management system from them”

Scrutiny of a supplier’s capability and capacity, such as available resources, talent, skills and support capability, is considered as a matter of course in government procurement to ensure suppliers are able to support their products and services. However, there were no specific direct investment requirements of the nature alluded to, sought, or placed on Amazon (AWS) or others, including Salesforce, and this did not feature in any procurement decision or evaluation for the COVID-19 Immunisation Register (CIR) or associated systems.

“a decision that required the cancelation of the Ministry’s existing relationship with the homegrown Orion Health, which built and continues to maintain the country’s existing National Immunisation Register (NIR)?”

The Ministry has not cancelled its relationship with Orion Health and maintains other contracts with this supplier outside of the National Immunisation Register (NIR), which in its current form will continue to be supported by Orion Health until March 2022. As the NIR was launched in 2005, a business case was developed in 2019 for its replacement with a system that uses modern technology and has an enhanced capability to serve the health needs of New Zealanders.

The replacement National Immunisation System has not yet commenced in development but is likely to leverage the capability developed to provide the CIR.

“Please provide copies of all correspondence concerning the Covid vaccination register with:

- (a) Minister Stuart Nash or his officials in any capacity;*
- (b) Orion Health’s Ian McCrae;*

(c) Amazon;
(d) Salesforce;
(c) Deloitte;
(d) the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet or the Prime Minister's office;
(c) any other Ministries, or government departments or units, or Ministers and their officials;
(d) any other pecuniary interest;
(d) and any other interested parties,
prior to, during, and after the tendering process for the Covid vaccination register management system that mentions Amazon or their partners' investment plans for New Zealand, being careful to provide any correspondence, as well as any reports, opinions - and any other documentation in any form that makes reference to Amazon's movie production business, or the Lord of the Rings even if only as a quip or allusion - and, otherwise, any and all other references to both Amazon and Salesforce's wider investment plans for the country."

This part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation. I have considered whether charging or extending the time to compile the information would enable us to respond, however, I do not believe it is in the public interest to do so.

However, there was no connection between Amazon's movie production business or *The Lord of the Rings* in any decision made by the Ministry in relation to the CIR or any of its associated system procurement decisions.

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 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Celia Wellington
**Deputy Director-General
Corporate Services**