

5 November 2021

Adam Irish

By email: [fyi-request-17016-fbd6b358@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17016-fbd6b358@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202113494

Tēnā koe Adam

### **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 3 October 2021 for:

*“The government's strategy appears to be moving towards reliance on vaccines. What efforts are and have been made to secure vaccines for New Zealanders under the age of 12. Has any contract for supply been signed with any manufacturer. And when will these vaccines be ready for that age group”*

Vaccination will only be available for children aged under 12 once it has been approved by Medsafe and Cabinet approves it for use.

Pfizer must apply to Medsafe in order to be considered and granted with provisional approval for the Cominarty Pfizer vaccine for use in children under 12 years of age. Pfizer has not yet applied to Medsafe to vary the approval of their COVID-19 vaccine for children under the age of 12. If and when Pfizer does submit an application, Medsafe will prioritise the assessment of the data for this age group.

If Medsafe provisionally approves the Pfizer vaccine for people under 12 years, further clinical and scientific advice will be sought from the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group before it goes to Cabinet for a “decision to use”. If and when there is a decision to use the Pfizer vaccine for youth between 5 to 11 in New Zealand, the Ministry will provide more details about how this will be rolled out as part of our immunisation programme.

You may be interested in Information on the purchase of additional COVID-19 vaccines has been published by the Beehive at: [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/additional-pfizer-covid-19-vaccines-purchased](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/additional-pfizer-covid-19-vaccines-purchased).

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).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards and then downwards.

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