

1 December 2021

AJ Sheppard

By email: [fyi-request-17213-9f47d1db@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17213-9f47d1db@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: H202114517

Tēnā koe AJ

### **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 16 October 2021 for information on vaccine efficacy.

*I request any and all information relating to discussion, planning or implementation in preparation for the event of the pfizer covid vaccine failing or not producing satisfactory protection*

The data available to date shows that the Pfizer vaccine (Comirnaty) is both safe and effective at both reducing transmission and preventing serious illness caused by Covid-19 infection. New Zealand has arrangements to purchase four separate vaccinations, in order to ensure a diverse portfolio of options.

*I request any and all information relating to discussion, planning or implementation should a major health or safety issue arise with the pfizer covid vaccine*

Discussion, planning, and implementation should a health or safety issue arise with Comirnaty is normal pharmacovigilance activity for all medication. You may wish to review the available information on the Medsafe website at: <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/>.

*Does the MOH have a plan in place should the pfizer covid vaccine fail long term safety trials? If so then i request all information held on this issue.*

Comirnaty has long term safety information from clinical trials. Six months is a sufficient period and this information has been assessed and incorporated into the New Zealand data sheet. The Ministry has entered into agreements to purchase several different vaccines in order to have alternatives in the event one vaccine was no longer available. The data sheet is available from [www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/c/comirnatyinj.pdf](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/c/comirnatyinj.pdf).

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](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, appearing to read 'J. Gibbs', followed by a period.

Jo Gibbs  
**National Director**  
**COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme**