

20 January 2022

Chuck Schooner

By email: [fyi-request-18147-e04ced2d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-18147-e04ced2d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Chuck

### Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 11 January 2022. You requested (numbering added):

*“1) Are you able to confirm if the Civil Aviation Authority has completed any due diligence surrounding the licensing of pilots following the mass roll out of the Experimental Gene Therapy (Covid-19) vaccine.*

*2) Are you able to provide me with any and all communications/correspondence that the Civil Aviation Authority has completed in assessing the safety of the experimental gene therapy and any agencies be it the Ministry of Health, Office of the Prime Minister of any agencies and the dates associated.*

*3) Have Air New Zealand mandated the gene therapy for their pilots*

*4) What proportion of Air New Zealand pilots have been fully vaccinated*

*5) Are you able to confirm as the science evolves in relation to the experimental gene therapy that the Civil Aviation Authority will continue to monitor pilots and their ability to meet safety standards associated with the Medical Certificate Application Form.*

*6) Recently the attached Pfizer document has been released - <https://phmpt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/5.3.6-postmarketing-experience.pdf> Is the Civil Aviation Authority in receipt of this? If not you are now.*

*7) Based on the ten pages of serious side effects that are listed in this document would a pilot be able to pass a medical because the gene therapy is shown to list the following as serious side effects*

*- Embolism & thrombosis*

*- Cardiac*

*- Heart attack*

*- Seizures*

*- Neurological and more*

*8) All of these side effects occurred in the short term - so to me that would mean that all of these sudden events could occur at anytime and especially given the booster roll out.*

*9) Given this now known information this would mean any and all pilots would not be able to pass a medical would it not because they are now suddenly susceptible to these side effects at anytime?*

*10) I would note there is currently a phenomenon of high level athletes dropping dead from sudden events so this could happen to pilots with a full plane of people. Please note this also*

*serves as a warning when the inevitable occurs which if you do your research plane crashes have become a lot more common in the USA a highly vaccinated country.*

*11) Who would be liable if an Air New Zealand plane with a load of passengers came down? The government or Civil Aviation Authority for licensing the pilot now that they are aware of this information.”*

I refer to your specific questions below.

- 1) Are you able to confirm if the Civil Aviation Authority has completed any due diligence surrounding the licensing of pilots following the mass roll out of the Experimental Gene Therapy (Covid-19) vaccine*
- 2) Are you able to provide me with any and all communications/correspondence that the Civil Aviation Authority has completed in assessing the safety of the experimental gene therapy and any agencies be it the Ministry of Health, Office of the Prime Minister of any agencies and the dates associated.*
- 6) Recently the attached Pfizer document has been released - <https://phmpt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/5.3.6-postmarketing-experience.pdf> Is the Civil Aviation Authority in receipt of this? If not you are now.*

No specific correspondence or communications have been entered between the Civil Aviation Authority and any other government agency regarding safety assessments of Medsafe approved vaccines. The Authority has and will continue to rely on the expert assessments of the Ministry of Health and Medsafe regarding the safety of approved COVID-19 vaccines. As such, this element of your request is refused in accordance with s 18(e) of the Act as the information you have requested does not exist.

Questions 3) and 4) refer to information which is held by Air New Zealand and not the Civil Aviation Authority. Air New Zealand is not subject to the Act. Therefore, I am refusing this element of your request in accordance with s 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the Authority and I have no grounds to believe this information is held by any other department or agency. You may wish to contact Air New Zealand for this information.

*5) Are you able to confirm as the science evolves in relation to the experimental gene therapy that the Civil Aviation Authority will continue to monitor pilots and their ability to meet safety standards associated with the Medical Certificate Application Form.*

As mentioned previously, the Authority has and will continue to rely on the expert assessments of the Ministry of Health and Medsafe regarding the safety of approved COVID-19 vaccines.

7) *Based on the ten pages of serious side effects that are listed in this document would a pilot be able to pass a medical because the gene therapy is shown to list the following as serious side effects*

- Embolism & thrombosis
- Cardiac
- Heart attack
- Seizures
- Neurological and more

9) *Given this now known information this would mean any and all pilots would not be able to pass a medical would it not because they are now suddenly susceptible to these side effects at anytime?*

In accordance with s 27C of the Civil Aviation Act 1990, any changes in medical condition of a licence holder should be notified to the Director as soon as practicable, and licence holders may not exercise the privileges to which the medical certificate relates.

I note that questions 8) and 10) are not requests for 'official information' as set out in section 2 of the Act. Therefore, I have decided not to respond to these parts of your request.

11) *Who would be liable if an Air New Zealand plane with a load of passengers came down? The government or Civil Aviation Authority for licensing the pilot now that they are aware of this information*

As previously mentioned, it is the individual licence holder's responsibility, in accordance with s 27C of the Civil Aviation Act 1990 to notify any changes in medical condition to the Director as soon as practicable, and not exercise the privileges to which the medical certificate relates.

The Authority will continuously monitor information regarding the vaccines from the Ministry of Health and adapt the guidance when required. Our website is regularly updated to reflect any changes. <https://www.aviation.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours Sincerely



David Harrison  
Deputy Chief Executive Aviation Safety