

10 February 2022

Athina Andonatonou

By email: [fyi-request-18323-7bd07cc0@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-18323-7bd07cc0@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202200576

Tēnā koe Athina

### **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 18 January 2022 regarding Tamiflu. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

*1) How much did the purchase of 1.4 million doses of oseltamivir aka Tamiflu cost?*

This information has been withheld under section 9(2)(j) of the Act to enable a Minister or any public service agency to carry on negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

*2) How many doses were actually used of the 1.4 million doses purchased by New Zealand?*

During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic approximately 55,000 courses of national reserve Tamiflu were used.

*3) How many adverse effects were reported following its use?*

The adverse effects are publicly available by search via oseltamivir on Medsafe's website here: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/Projects/B1/ADRSearch.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/Projects/B1/ADRSearch.asp).

The Ministry has maintained a national reserve of influenza antivirals since 2005. More information on the national reserve supply antiviral stock is available on the Ministry of Health website: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/emergency-management/national-reserve-supplies](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/emergency-management/national-reserve-supplies).

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](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases)

Nāku noa, nā



Deborah Woodley  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Population Health and Prevention**