

# Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



ASE

[fyi-request-18340-166be43a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-18340-166be43a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: PMO 2021-367

PMO 2022-010

Tēnā koe ASE

## Official Information Act requests

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) requests, received on 3 December 2021 and 26 January 2022. You requested:

Request dated 3 December 2021:

*“Is Jacinda Ardern aware of any long-term safety data for any COVID-19 inoculations?  
If so, what is that data?”*

*Is Jacinda Ardern aware of any long-term efficacy data for any COVID-19 inoculations?  
If so, what is that data?”*

*Considering what is and what is not known of long-term safety and efficacy of COVID-19 inoculations, what consideration has Jacinda Ardern given to the status of COVID-19 inoculations as “experimental” medical treatments? What scientific and medical basis does Jacinda Ardern have for asserting that COVID-19 inoculations are not “experimental” medical treatments? If this has not been considered by Jacinda Ardern, then why has this not been considered?*

*What contingency plans have been considered by Jacinda Ardern, if COVID-19 inoculations may prove to be unsafe, ineffective, unnecessary, and/or otherwise harmful to personal health and/or public health (as “public health” is generally understood)? If this has not been considered by Jacinda Ardern, then why has this not been considered?*

*In consideration of positions, polices, and/or legislation (including, but not limited to messaging and medical advice, collective punishments, and segregation) which may appear as intent to use force, fraud, deceit, duress, over-reaching, or other ulterior forms of constraint or coercion to encourage, incentivize, or otherwise promote COVID-19 inoculations, what consideration has Jacinda Ardern given to the effects of such positions, polices, and/or legislation respecting healthcare providers' legal and ethical obligations to empower their patients to exercise their rights of informed consent (including rights of informed refusal)? How do such positions, polices, and/or legislation respect patients' rights regarding informed consent (including rights of informed refusal)? If this has not been considered by Jacinda Ardern, then why has this not been considered?*

*In consideration of positions, polices, and/or legislation (including, but not limited to messaging and medical advice, collective punishments, and segregation) which may appear as intent to use force, fraud, deceit, duress, over-reaching, or other ulterior forms of constraint or coercion to encourage, incentivize, or otherwise promote COVID-19 inoculations, what consideration has Jacinda Ardern given to the effects of such*

*positions, policies, and/or legislation respecting individual human rights (including human rights as recognised under national and international frameworks), such as individual human rights to privacy and confidentiality of medical information; and individual human rights to refuse medical treatment, with or without reason? If this has not been considered by Jacinda Ardern, then why has this not been considered?*

*In consideration of the questions raised above, and related matters, what consideration has Jacinda Ardern given to the possibility that positions, policies, and/or legislation (including, but not limited to messaging and medical advice, collective punishments, and segregation) which may appear as intent to use force, fraud, deceit, duress, over-reaching, or other ulterior forms of constraint or coercion to encourage, incentivize, or otherwise promote COVID-19 inoculations, may expose proponents, advocates, and/or actors on behalf of such positions, policies, and/or legislation to culpability for human rights violations, crimes against humanity, and/or war crimes? If this has not been considered by Jacinda Ardern, then why has this not been considered?"*

Request dated 26 January 2022:

*"How is constructive dissent being encouraged? How is groupthink and confirmation bias being discouraged?"*

*What management practices are in place to ensure that constructive dissent is being encouraged; and groupthink and confirmation bias are being discouraged? How are these matters being assessed and managed (eg via "key performance indicators") on an ongoing basis, and what has been the assessment of such metrics? If such metrics are not being actively assessed and managed, then why are they not being actively assessed and managed?*

*How has diversity of thought been compromised by mandates which exclude or otherwise marginalise those who dissent or conscientiously object to requirements to submit to medical treatments (aka "vaccinations")? If this issue has not been assessed, then why has this issue not been assessed?"*

### **Request dated 3 December 2021**

Cabinet's decision-making is informed by the latest advice, including from Medsafe and the Ministry of Health.

To ensure the vaccine continues to provide a high level of protection against COVID-19, Medsafe, New Zealand's medicines safety authority will continue to monitor the vaccine as it is used and review efficacy and safety data as it becomes available. More information about the assessment and approval process for COVID-19 vaccines is available through the Ministry of Health website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccines-available-new-zealand>

COVID-19 vaccinations are not experimental. Medsafe checks applications for all new medicines, including vaccines to make sure they meet international standards and local requirements.

More information about vaccine clinical trials and the development of the vaccine is available through the Ministry of Health:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccines-available-new-zealand/covid-19-vaccine-clinical-trials-and-testing>

This part of your request is refused therefore under section 18(d) of the Act as the information you have requested is publicly available.


The remainder of your request would require this office to form an opinion or create new information in order to respond. We are therefore declining these questions as they do not constitute requests for official information under section 2 of the Act.

***Request dated 26 January 2022***

As outlined above, the Act does not impose a requirement on agencies to create new information or to form opinions in order to respond to requests. Your request is therefore refused under section 2 as this does not constitute a request for official information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Ngā mihi nui,



Raj Nahna  
**Chief of Staff**