

Jai Ganesh
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Tēnā koe Jai

Your Official Information Act request, reference: HNZ00007450

Thank you for your email on 23 November 2022 asking for information which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

As you may be aware a new government agency, Health New Zealand (Health NZ), was established on 1 July 2022 pursuant to the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 (the Act). As such, the functions previously under the former District Health Boards have transferred to Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand. As the matters you have raised now fall under the functions of Te Whatu Ora, our agency will respond to your request.

You asked:

“So from what I understand, the vaccine was pushed based on incomplete trials by Pfizer, the MoH took their word for it, Pfizer tried to hide their trial data for 75 years, the efficacy and safety was not tested for and the mouthpieces that pushed it were simply unaware? Who were the ad agencies and who were the ministers and officials that oversaw this process?”

Could I please have a list of medical professionals / medical bodies consulted by the government as well as the ministers that reviewed the Pfizer safety data before stating it was 'safe and effective' especially for pregnant people.”

Medsafe is the New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority. Medsafe evaluates applications for all new medicines, including COVID-19 vaccines, to ensure that they comply with international standards and local requirements for quality, safety and efficacy. Only if the medicine meets these standards will Medsafe approve a medicine for use in New Zealand. More information about Medsafe’s approval process can be found here: <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-approval-process.asp>. For your information, the status of all COVID-19 vaccine applications are publicly available on the Medsafe website here: <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/status-of-applications.asp>. More information on the vaccine safety monitoring process for vaccines that have been approved for use can be found here: <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/monitoring-process.asp>.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) provides science advice and recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines. The CV TAG considers a breadth of evidence on vaccine safety, efficacy and effectiveness. More information on the CV TAG can be found here: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/leadership-ministry/expert-groups/covid-19-vaccine-technical-advisory-group-cv-tag.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Independent Safety Monitoring Board (CV-ISMB) provides expert advice on the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine(s) to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM), Medsafe, the National Immunisation Programme, Te Whatu Ora and the Ministry of Health. The CV-ISMB considers a breadth of evidence on vaccine safety, efficacy and effectiveness. More information on the CV-ISMB can be found here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-health-professionals/covid-19-vaccine-strategy-planning-insights/covid-19-who-were-working#ismb>.

Further information about the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine is available online at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-science-news> and <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-side-effects-and-reactions>.

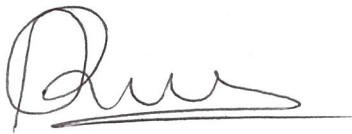
How to get in contact

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with Te Whatu Ora at: hnzoia@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Astrid Koornneef
Kaitohu | Director
National Immunisation Programme