

3 November 2022

Mark Wong

Email: [fyi-request-20965-64ff71ae@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-20965-64ff71ae@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2022015701

Dear Mark

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 27 October 2022 for information regarding autopsies on reported deaths after COVID-19 vaccination. You requested:

*“Up to and including 31 August 2022 there have been 177 reports to medsafe of deaths following vaccination. To the best of the ministry of health’s knowledge, have any autopsies been carried out on any of the 177 deceased?”*

Manatū Hauora is aware that some post-mortems following these deaths have been conducted. Please note that referrals for autopsies are not done by Medsafe or the Ministry. This decision is taken by the family with support from the healthcare workers involved in the patient’s care. When autopsy results are available the Ministry requests the findings of the post-mortem which are then used to review the relationship between vaccination and the cause of death as determined from the post-mortem. Ministry of Health does not determine the cause of death. For more information, you may wish to contact the Coronial Services team at Ministry of Justice by email at: [coronial.information@justice.govt.nz](mailto:coronial.information@justice.govt.nz) or by calling 04 466 2789 or 04 466 2786.

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 Manatū Hauora 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).

Yours sincerely



Chris James  
**Group Manager**  
**Medsafe**