



26 January 2023

Nigel Gray

By email: fyi-request-21366-04c7aa14@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Nigel

I refer to your information request dated 8 December 2022 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

- *“please provide me with the amounts and source organisations providing funding to Professor James Ussher and the amounts and source organisations providing funding to the faculty he is employed within.*
- *“additionally, please provide/reference whatever studies Professor Ussher is using to claim that mRNA does not remain in vaccinated blood for long. Exactly how long and what evidence to back this up”.*

Please see below our response to your request.

Amounts and source organisations providing funding to Professor James Ussher

Subject to the following comments, please see the below table which shows the total value of projects funding the Ussher Laboratory.

- the details of some projects are withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. The details of the projects withheld are commercially sensitive and need to be kept confidential.
- all values are GST exclusive.
- we note that the Ussher Laboratory is not funded by Pfizer.

Contracting Organisation	Total Value of Projects
Health Research Council (HRC)	\$1,385,031
Maurice Wilkins Centre (MWC)	\$400,624
Commercially Sensitive Projects	\$120,025

Amounts and source organisations providing funding to the faculty Professor James Ussher is employed within

Subject to the following comments, please see the below table which shows the total value of projects funding Principal Investigators who are from the University's Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

- the details of some projects are again withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or is the subject of the information. Details of some of these projects are commercially sensitive and need to be kept confidential.
- all values are GST exclusive.
- the dollar values represent the total value of projects that began in 2022.
- we note that Principal Investigators from the University's Department of Microbiology are not funded by Pfizer.

Contracting Organisation	Total Value of Projects
AgResearch	\$540,000
Callaghan Innovation	\$30,500
Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	\$3,000
Deans Bequest Fund	\$33,068
Dunedin Basic Medical Sciences Trust	\$12,234
Health Research Council of NZ (HRC)	\$6,728,590
HS and JC Anderson Charitable Trust	\$18,717
Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited (ESR)	\$71,000
Lincoln University	\$120,000
Malaghan Institute of Medical Research	\$450,214
Massey University	\$39,680
Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust	\$15,000
New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology Inc	\$46,600
Prime Minister's Science Prizes Secretariat	\$150,000
Royal Society of New Zealand	\$1,120,000
University of Auckland	\$725,319
University of Otago	\$170,081
William Sherriff Charitable Trust	\$103,362
Commercially Sensitive Projects	\$1,099,658
Total	\$11,477,023

Please provide/reference whatever studies Professor Ussher is using to claim that mRNA does not remain in vaccinated blood for long. Exactly how long and what evidence to back this up

Professor Ussher has provided the below references:

- [European Medicines Agency \(EMA\) assessment report of Comirnaty](#)
- [Biomedicines. 2022 Jul; 10\(7\): 1538](#)
- [NZBS Transfusion Medicine Handbook 3rd Edition, 2016](#). Please note that this is currently unavailable on the New Zealand Blood Service website as it is undergoing review, but a copy of the document is still publicly available elsewhere online. In case it is helpful, we have attached a copy.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

In the above cases, we consider that good reasons exist for withholding information, and this is not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available. If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Yours sincerely



Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar