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21 February 2023

Remigius Rensen

By email: [fyi-request-21863-729011e9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-21863-729011e9@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2023020578

Tēnā koe Remigius

### **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 16 February 2023. You requested:

*“In line with the NZ govt. transparency policy of turning over every grain of salt to keep us informed and keeping in mind politicians represent the people, it would be of interest for the public to understand what the NZ govt. and Pfizer agreed to on paper”*

Manatū Hauora is unable to provide you with a copy of the Pfizer contract due to commercial sensitivity. Therefore, your request is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) as its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.
- Section 9(2)(ba)(ii) to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely damage the public interest.

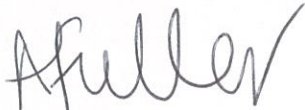
I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing information and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold releasing the Pfizer contract at this time.

Although Manatū Hauora appreciates the high degree of public interest in the vaccination programme and the Pfizer vaccine, this does not outweigh the need to protect the commercial sensitivity of the information in the agreement. We note Pharmac was transferred the responsibility to purchase and manage the COVID-19 vaccine supply from 1 July 2022.

There is a large amount of information publicly available about the vaccine, including on the Medsafe website here: [www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/medicine-approval-process.asp](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/medicine-approval-process.asp).

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.

Nāku noa, nā

pp. 

Jan Torres

**Manager, OIA Services**

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