

22 February 2024

Chris McCashin
fyi-request-24521-076b4570@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 109202

Tēnā koe Chris,

Request for information regarding non-disclosure agreements and sudden deaths during the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2024 to New Zealand Police (Police), requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information on deaths during the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and non-disclosure agreements. Specifically you requested:

are you able to confirm investigated any of the sudden deaths at the height of the vaccine roll-out that were blamed on other causes and sought any Non-Disclosure agreements from the health agencies - I suggest the deaths of the young girls from adverse affects from the contraceptive pill be the first that are looked at.

On 26 January 2024 your request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) for response under section 14 of the Act as the information you have requested is more closely connected with the functions of the Coroners Court.

In response to the first part of your request, the Ministry does not hold information on vaccination records for sudden deaths. Information on the COVID-19 vaccine records relating to deaths of people may be reported to the coroner as part of their investigation. However, as this information is held by the Coroners Court, it is excluded from the operation of the Act under section 2(6)(a). I am refusing your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry, and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown, organisation, or local authority.

In order to respond to your request, the Ministry has interpreted 'sought any non-disclosure agreements from the health agencies' to be a request for COVID-19 vaccine non-disclosure agreements held by the Ministry with the Ministry of Health and Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand.

In response to the second part of your request, the Act enables people to request official information from Ministers and agencies. However, the Act only applies to information that exists. The Ministry does not hold any COVID-19 vaccine non-disclosure agreements with the Ministry of Health or Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand as the Ministry does not hold information on vaccine records for sudden deaths. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information you have requested does not exist.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response, please contact Joe Locke, Media & Social Media Manager, on 021 636 416, or email media@justice.govt.nz

If you are not satisfied with our response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by calling 0800 802 60; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

I trust this information assists.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JRS', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jacquelyn Shannon

Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery