

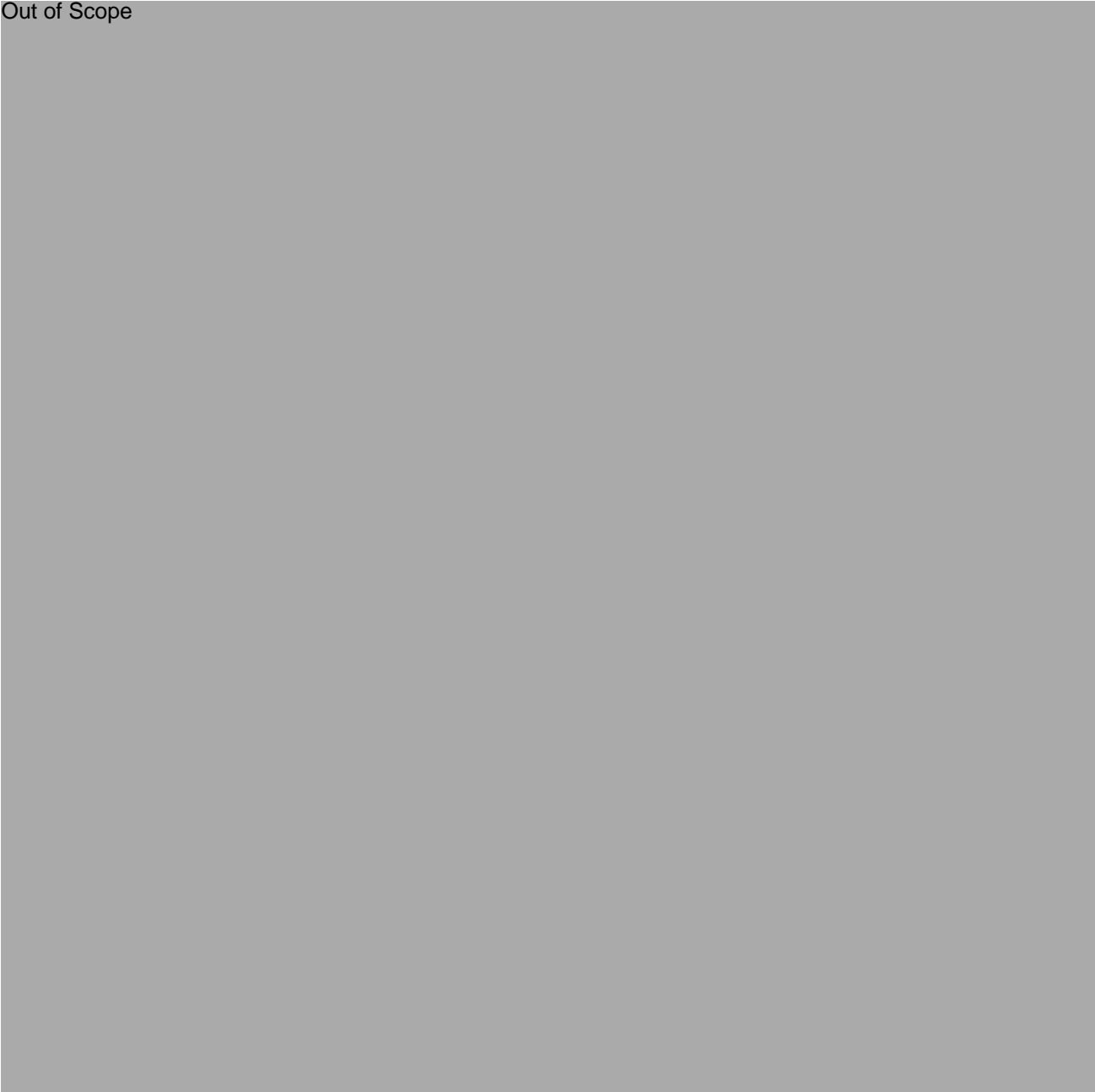
From: [Margie Apa](#)
To: [Barry Young](#); [Diana Sarfati](#); [Robyn Shearer](#); [Celia Wellington](#); [Dean Rutherford](#); [Sarah Turner](#); [John Whaanga](#); [Andrew Old](#); [Simon Medcalf](#); [Maree Roberts](#); [Martin Chadwick](#); [Joe Bourne](#); [Leigh Donoghue](#); [Michael Dreyer](#)
Subject: RE: DATA and DIGITAL Update
Date: Thursday, 30 November 2023 10:27:00 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Thank you for sharing your observations Barry. It is important that we understand what you are observing and check against the existing systems we have for monitoring safety and adverse events in immunisation.


I ask your leaders Leigh and/or Michael to follow up with you directly and have an expert review your data and, if there are concerns as you say, lets work out what we do about it. Leigh and/or Michael can work with the National Public Health Service to review this information.

Thanks so much for reaching out. Warmest regards, Margie.

Out of Scope



Out of Scope



From: Margie Apa
Sent: Thursday, 30 November 2023 9:32 pm
To: Michael Dreyer; Leigh Donoghue
Cc: Peter Alsop
Subject: Re: DATA and DIGITAL Update

Pete will be in touch. minister wants a briefing at 9am. Can you be available Michael to talk to his work/role and team environment if required. s9(2)(g)(i)

From: Michael Dreyer <Michael.Dreyer@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:53 PM
To: Margie Apa <Margie.Apa@health.govt.nz>; Leigh Donoghue <Leigh.Donoghue@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: DATA and DIGITAL Update

Hello Margie

s9(2)(a) s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(g)(i)

Regards
Michael

From: Margie Apa <Margie.Apa@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Michael Dreyer <Michael.Dreyer@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: DATA and DIGITAL Update

Thanks Michael, can you get back to me s9(2)(a), S9(2)(g)(i)

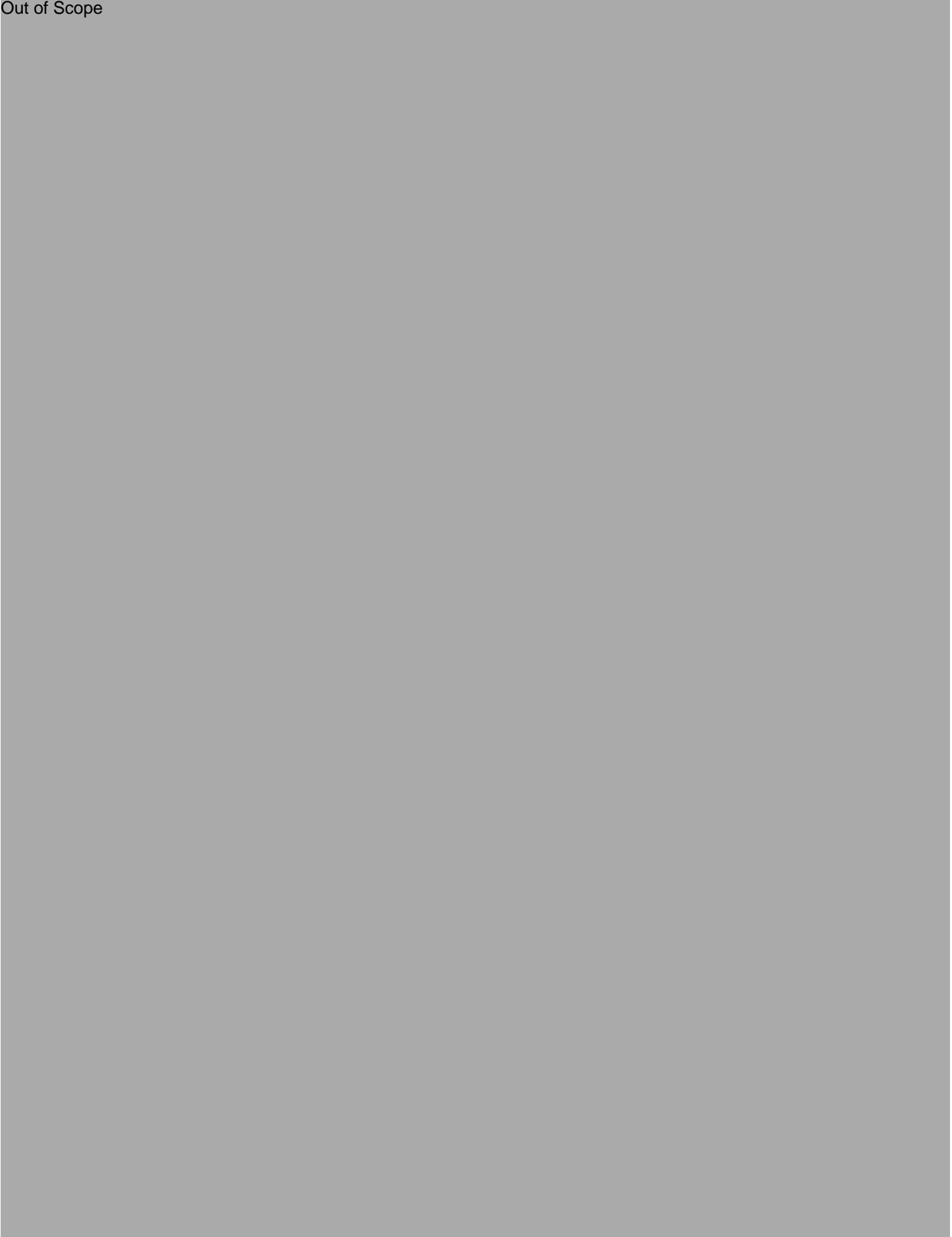
From: Michael Dreyer <Michael.Dreyer@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:33 AM
To: Diana Sarfati <Diana.Sarfati@health.govt.nz>; Robyn Shearer <Robyn.Shearer@health.govt.nz>; Celia Wellington <Celia.Wellington@health.govt.nz>; Dean Rutherford <Dean.Rutherford@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>; John Whaanga <John.Whaanga@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Simon Medcalf <Simon.Medcalf@health.govt.nz>; Maree Roberts <Maree.Roberts@health.govt.nz>; Martin Chadwick <Martin.Chadwick@health.govt.nz>; Joe Bourne <Joe.Bourne@health.govt.nz>; Margie Apa <Margie.Apa@health.govt.nz>; Leigh Donoghue <Leigh.Donoghue@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: DATA and DIGITAL Update

Hello all


Apologies for this. s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(g)(i)

Regards
Michael Dreyer

Out of Scope



Out of Scope



From: [Margie Apa](#)
To: [Catherine Delore](#); [Andrew Slater](#); [Peter Alsop](#); [Nick Chamberlain](#)
Cc: [Emily Richards \(MOH\)](#); [Fiona McCarthy](#)
Subject: RE: DISCLOSURE incident - approach for a proactive release
Date: Friday, 1 December 2023 7:00:20 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Looks good thanks.

From: Catherine Delore <xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>
Sent: Friday, 1 December 2023 6:12 am
To: Margie Apa <xxxxxx.xxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Andrew Slater <Andrew.Slater@health.govt.nz>; Peter Alsop <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Nick Chamberlain <xxxx.xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>
Cc: Emily Richards <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Fiona McCarthy <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>
Subject: DISCLOSURE incident - approach for a proactive release

Hi – please see below for the suggested approach to a proactive release on this – it is a different tone than the stronger reactive approach that we’d need to take. The messaging for that, which went to the Minister’s office last night, is further below.

Proactive

We remind people that vaccines remain safe and effective and that they should keep up to date with their shots to protect themselves, whanau and their communities.

We are aware that one of our staff, with no clinical background or expert vaccine knowledge, is trying to spread misinformation.

What he is claiming is completely wrong and ill-informed and his comments demonstrate this. Sadly, we have continued to see conspiracy theorists disseminating false and harmful misinformation.

We assure people there is no evidence whatsoever that vaccination is responsible for excess mortality in New Zealand and that they can continue to have confidence in vaccines.

Publicly available data shows that four deaths in New Zealand are possibly linked to adverse reactions following COVID-19 vaccination. This is in the context of 3,361 people whose deaths have to date been directly attributed to COVID-19 in New Zealand, with more than 12.6 million vaccines administered to eligible New Zealanders as of 2 October 2023.

By chance, and separate to a prior COVID-19 vaccination event, some people will experience new illnesses or die from a pre-existing condition shortly after vaccination, especially if they are elderly. The Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) and Medsafe have investigated these deaths.

In addition to this, the COVID-19 Vaccine Independent Safety Monitoring Board (CV-ISMB) has compared natural death rates to observed death rates following vaccination.

In the monitoring period for the Pfizer/ BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (19 February 2021 to 30 September 2022), the observed number of deaths was less than the expected number of natural deaths.

It is extremely disappointing to see a staff member trying to misuse our data to spread misinformation. He is no longer at work and an employment investigation is underway.

Reactive

Primary messaging:

- We're extremely disappointed at the behaviour of this staff member – what he is claiming is completely wrong and ill-informed.
- He has no medical background or expert knowledge, and his comments demonstrate this.
- An employment investigation process is underway.
- There are many conspiracy theorists out there unfortunately who disseminate harmful disinformation.
- The public can and should continue to have confidence in vaccines.
- There is no evidence whatsoever that vaccination is responsible for excess mortality in New Zealand.

Secondary messaging:

- We take the security of the information we hold extremely seriously and this is a significant breach of trust.
- As soon as we became aware of what he was up to we took immediate steps to investigate and respond.
- We blocked his access to our systems and began assessing what information may have been accessed.
- At this stage we haven't seen evidence to suggest personal data has been downloaded and we are continuing to examine the databases, devices (including computers and phones) and the emails of the staff member.
- We are seeking a court injunction over the improper and unauthorised public disclosure and use of the information.
- Publicly available data shows that four deaths in New Zealand are possibly linked to adverse reactions following COVID-19 vaccination.
- This is in the context of 3,361 people whose deaths have to date been directly attributed to COVID-19 in New Zealand, with more than 12.6 million vaccines administered to eligible New Zealanders as of 2 October 2023.
- By chance and separate to a prior COVID-19 vaccination event, some people will experience new illnesses or die from a pre-existing condition shortly after vaccination, especially if they are elderly.
- The Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) and Medsafe have investigated these deaths.
- In addition to this, the COVID-19 Vaccine Independent Safety Monitoring Board (CV-ISMB) has compared natural death rates to observed death rates following vaccination.
- In the monitoring period for the Pfizer/ BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (19 February 2021 to 30 September 2022), the observed number of deaths was less than the expected number of natural deaths.

Catherine Delore

Head of Communications & Engagement

waea pūkoro: S9(2)(a) | īmēra .@.

69 Tory Street, Wellington

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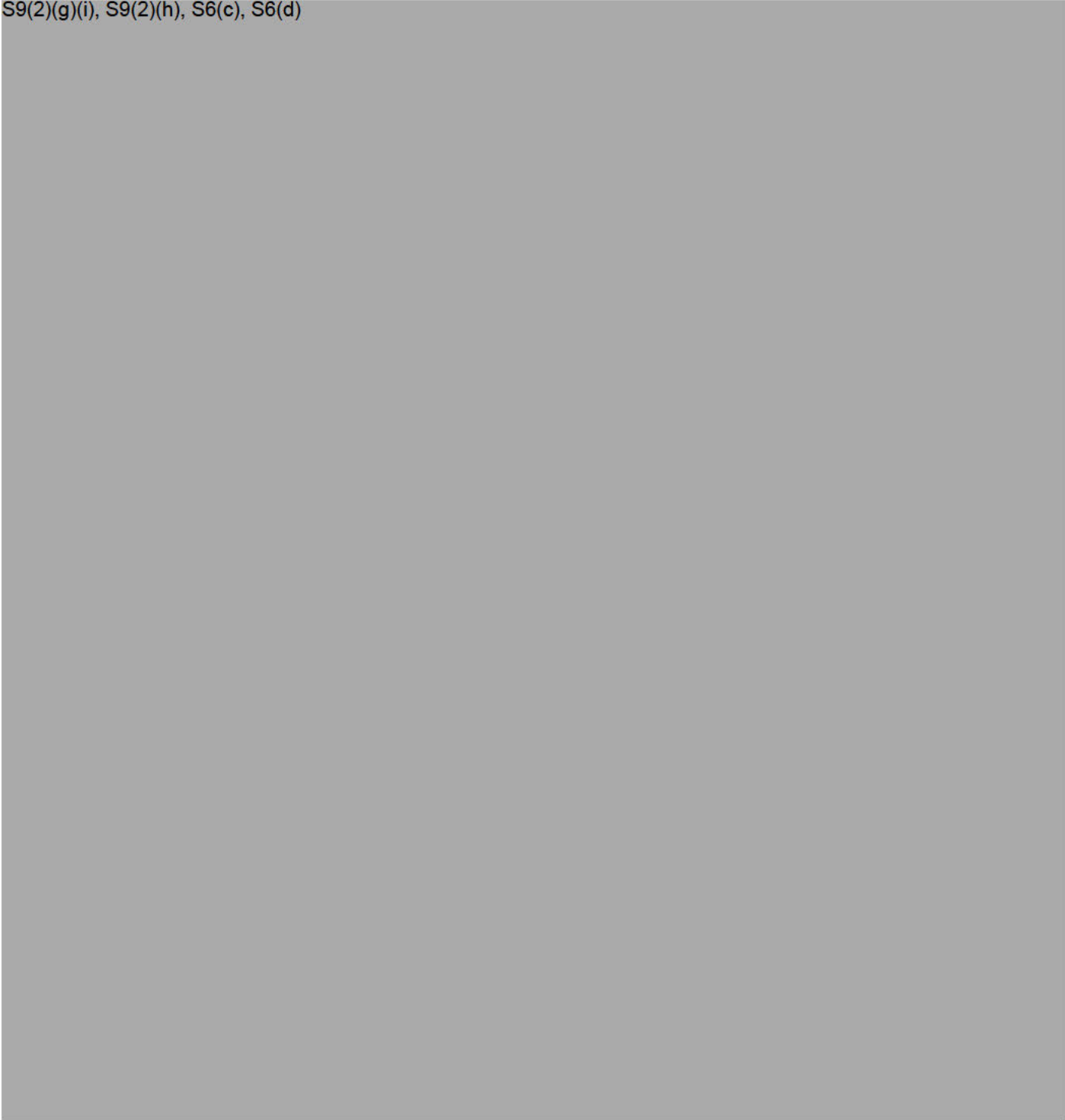
Document 4

From: [Margie Apa](#)
To: [Karen Poutasi](#); [Amy Adams](#); [Vanessa Stoddart](#); [Naomi Ferguson](#); [Jeff Lowe](#); [Curtis Walker \[MidCentral\]](#); [Tipa Mahuta](#)
Cc: [Riana Manuel](#); [Diana Sarfati \(MoH\)](#); [Peter Alsop](#); [Nick Chamberlain](#); [Leigh Donoghue](#); [Sonny Taite](#)
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL: DATA BREACH UPDATE
Date: Saturday, 2 December 2023 6:53:15 pm
Importance: High


Kia ora Board and colleagues, a quick update on escalation overnight and actions over coming 24-48 hours. 2pm briefing held with Minister and Chair today and scheduled for tomorrow at 2pm. Likely second public media release to be confirmed tomorrow pm and co-ordinating with Prime Minister's office on timing.

Situation Report highlights since last night's email to you:

S9(2)(g)(i), S9(2)(h), S6(c), S6(d)



S9(2)(g)(i), S9(2)(h), S6(c), S6(d)



Please call me if you need more. Warm r's M.

Document 5

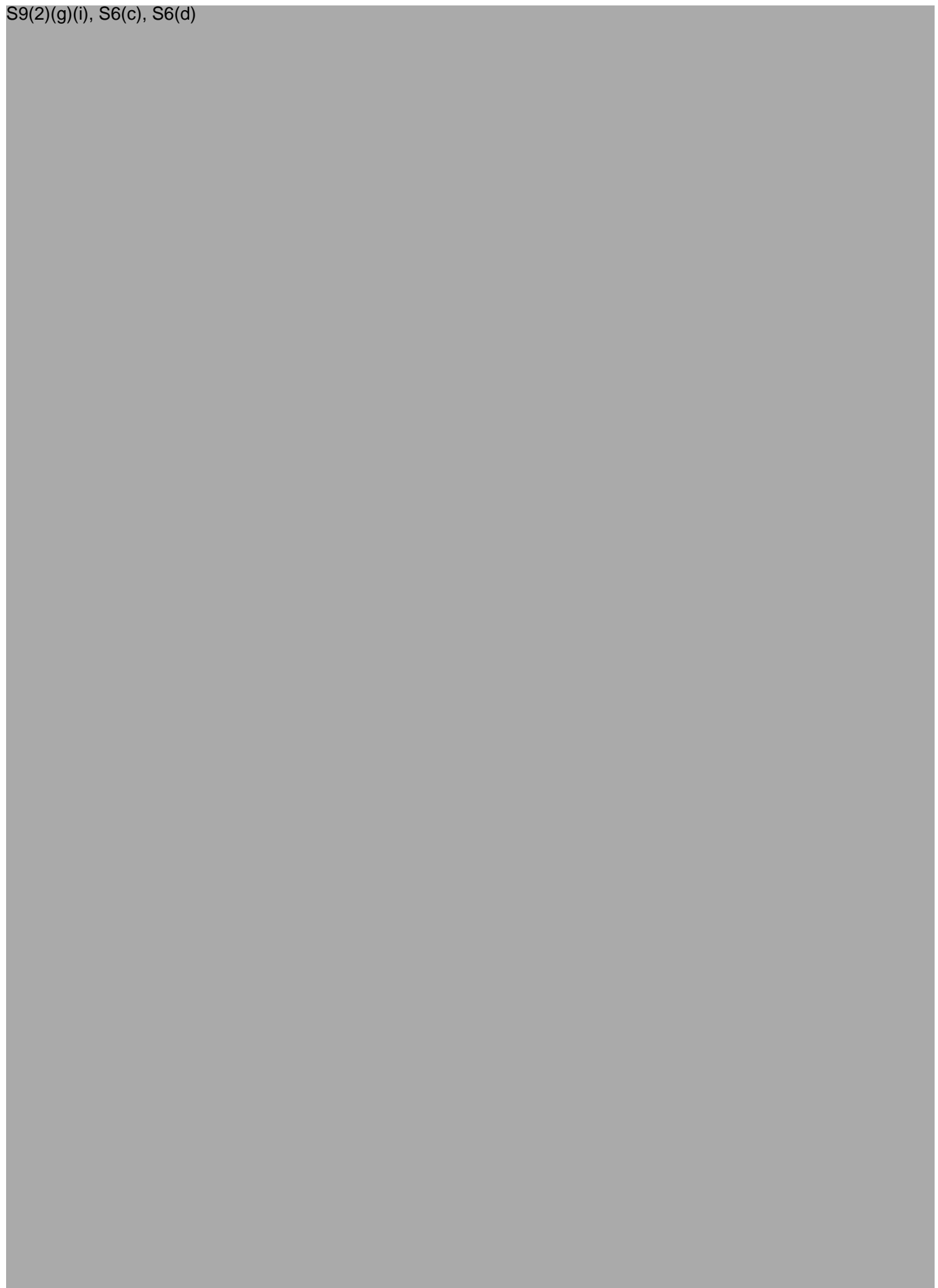
From: [Margie Apa](#)
To: [Peter Alsop](#); [Catherine Delore](#)
Cc: [Andrew Slater](#); [Sue Gordon](#)
Subject: draft note for Coalition Government briefing
Date: Sunday, 3 December 2023 12:07:09 pm
Attachments: [Coalition Government briefing.docx](#)

Attached is my suggested go. Can you do your magic and send to Min cc Karen and Di for their review.


Can you check and change terminology i.e. i don' tknow what we call this persons; organisation names etc...

Thanks team.

S9(2)(g)(i), S6(c), S6(d)



S9(2)(g)(i), S6(c), S6(d)



Document 6

From: [Margie Apa](#)
To: [Karen Poutasi](#); [Amy Adams](#); [Vanessa Stoddart](#); [Naomi Ferguson](#); [Jeff Lowe](#); [Curtis Walker \[MidCentral\]](#); [Tipa Mahuta](#)
Cc: [Riana Manuel](#); [Diana Sarfati \(MOH\)](#); [Peter Alsop](#); [Sue Gordon \(MOH\)](#); [Andrew Slater](#)
Subject: Out of scope
Date: Sunday, 3 December 2023 12:19:53 pm

When it rains....

Out of scope
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

We've added extra resource to support the COVID19 data breach.
We do not believe these two incidences are linked.

Please contact me if you need more.

Warmest regards, Margie.

From: [Margie Apa](#)
To: [Kelly Mitchell](#)
Cc: [Dinah Nicholas](#)
Subject: Re: On camera interview for this afternoon
Date: Monday, 4 December 2023 12:12:58 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Thanks Kelly will someone come and set up a room or find a place to do this?

From: Kelly Mitchell <Kelly.Mitchell@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 12:11:34 PM
To: Margie Apa <Margie.Apa@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Slater <Andrew.Slater@health.govt.nz>; Catherine Delore <Catherine.Delore@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Dinah Nicholas <Dinah.Nicholas@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: On camera interview for this afternoon

They are coming to Spark.

Kelly Mitchell (she/her)
Acting Media Lead | Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand

waea pūkoro: s9(2)(a) imēra: kelly.mitchell@health.govt.nz



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From: Margie Apa <Margie.Apa@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 December 2023 12:11 pm
To: Kelly Mitchell <Kelly.Mitchell@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Slater <Andrew.Slater@health.govt.nz>; Catherine Delore <Catherine.Delore@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Dinah Nicholas <Dinah.Nicholas@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: On camera interview for this afternoon

When we say on camera do we mean on zoom or are they coming to Spark?

From: Margie Apa <Margie.Apa@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 12:10:04 PM
To: Kelly Mitchell <Kelly.Mitchell@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Slater <Andrew.Slater@health.govt.nz>; Catherine Delore <Catherine.Delore@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Dinah Nicholas <Dinah.Nicholas@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: On camera interview for this afternoon

Thanks can we check the first question on any other detection with Sonny? I have not been alerted to any.

From: Kelly Mitchell <Kelly.Mitchell@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 12:08:21 PM
To: Andrew Slater <Andrew.Slater@health.govt.nz>; Catherine Delore <Catherine.Delore@health.govt.nz>; Margie Apa <Margie.Apa@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Dinah Nicholas <Dinah.Nicholas@health.govt.nz>

Subject: On camera interview for this afternoon

Hi Margie,

We have confirmed your availability for two on camera interviews this afternoon. 3pm with s 9(2)(a) from TVNZ and 3.15pm with s 9(2)(a) from Newshub. The interviews will be at the Spark building.

I have explained to them both that you are limited in what you can say due to the ongoing employment investigation and because the matter is before the court.

A general question line is below –

Has the data ended up on any more websites? Or have there been any more attempts to upload it that have been stopped?

Has any personal information been uncovered in the data leak?

What is happening with Barry Young's employment?

What were your vetting processes around him and do these now need to be changed?

Can the public have confidence in TWO?

We will come back to you before the interviews with any additional messaging.

Cheers,

Kelly Mitchell (she/her)

Acting Media Lead | Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand

waea pūkoro: S [redacted] 9
īmēra: .@.. [redacted]



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Document 8

From: [Margie Apa](#)
To: Fionnagh.Dougan@middlemore.co.nz; Abbe.anderson@middlemore.co.nz;
Nick.Chamberlain@middlemore.co.nz; leigh.Donoghue@middlemore.co.nz;
Fionnagh.dougan@tewhatuora.govt.nz; Abbe.anderson@tewhatuora.govt.nz;
Nick.chamberlain@tewhatuora.govt.nz; leigh.donoghue@tewhatuora.govt.nz; Margie.Apa-Ext@margie.apa@tewhatuora.govt.nz
Subject: HAVE FORWARDED TO SONNY Re: Data Leak, I was provided with the data and would like to report
Date: Tuesday, 5 December 2023 5:05:54 pm

From: s 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:00 PM

To: Fionnagh.Dougan@middlemore.co.nz <Fionnagh.Dougan@middlemore.co.nz>;
Abbe.anderson@middlemore.co.nz <Abbe.anderson@middlemore.co.nz>;
Nick.Chamberlain@middlemore.co.nz <Nick.Chamberlain@middlemore.co.nz>;
leigh.Donoghue@middlemore.co.nz <leigh.Donoghue@middlemore.co.nz>;
Fionnagh.dougan@tewhatuora.govt.nz <Fionnagh.dougan@tewhatuora.govt.nz>;
Abbe.anderson@tewhatuora.govt.nz <Abbe.anderson@tewhatuora.govt.nz>;
Nick.chamberlain@tewhatuora.govt.nz <Nick.chamberlain@tewhatuora.govt.nz>;
Leigh.donoghue@tewhatuora.govt.nz <Leigh.donoghue@tewhatuora.govt.nz>; Margie.Apa-Ext@margie.apa@tewhatuora.govt.nz
<margie.apa@tewhatuora.govt.nz>

Subject: Data Leak, I was provided with the data and would like to report

Hi,

I would like to report an individual, Steve Kirsch, who resides in the United States as he published the NZW Leaked data and received it directly from your suspect. After his account was suspended from the hosting site he reposted it and it's currently available for download. It was "deidentified" from what was said. Steve Kirsch also emailed me the data to analyze a few weeks ago and it was NOT fully deidentified. That data file I received showed internal batch numbers, location of vaccination, type of vaccine, age and date of death. Enough info I could see someone being able to identify someone based on the information using obituaries. I was unaware at the time that it was illegally accessed and I have NOT shared the data since learning this information and I wanted to report to your office immediately.

Please let me know if you would like me to send you a copy of what I was sent and if you would like details for the individual who posted the information for download and sent it to me. I'm also willing to make any statements you might need or file the information with the police if warranted. I have never spoken to or dealt anyone except Steve Kirsch.

Now that I am aware that the information was illegally obtained I am prepared to delete the file from my possession after hearing back from your office. If I do not hear back by this Friday December 8th 11:59pm PST I will be deleting the file at that time so that I am not in possession of the information.

Please advise if you would like me to give any information or how I should proceed. And if I do not hear back I will simply delete the data on Friday.

Thanks,

s 9(2)(a)

Document 9

From: [Margie Apa](#)
To: [Kelly Mitchell](#); [Andrew Slater](#); [Peter Alsop](#); [Catherine Delore](#)
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - MEDIA RELEASE - DATA BREACH UPDATE
Date: Friday, 8 December 2023 7:37:39 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

I am sorry for delays can you see highlights below. Happy to go with your judgement on this Catherine.

We are keen to get this out today so your review and response asap would be appreciated.

UPDATE: Unauthorised data breach and attempt to spread misinformation

The Te Whatu Ora investigation into the unauthorised disclosure of data by a staff member is making progress.

We are treating this very seriously and **continue to expand resources including international expertise in cyber security** to the investigative work. We have also brought in outside expertise to help with the investigation and are beginning to better understand the nature of the information involved in this breach. **It seems that the information of interest continues to focus on pursuing a particular line of inquiry on excess deaths – to date our analysis suggests the the information impacts New Zealanders whom have deceased.** **Investigation is ongoing.**

We have liaised with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and are keeping them informed as we move through the process.

Alongside the work to identify the material **disclosed** by the individual, we have continued to pursue all avenues to take down the information if it reappears and appreciate the cooperation we have received from some domestic and international platforms.

Police are continuing to investigate, and we are cooperating fully with them. We can't comment any further on the proceedings before the court.

Alongside our operational response we are looking at our processes for data security and making any changes that are needed to further improve the security of information.

The misinformation about vaccines that has been put in the public arena in relation to our data is completely wrong. The person behind those claims was a data administrator with no clinical knowledge or expertise **in vaccines.**

ENDS

Thanks,

Kelly Mitchell (she/her)
Acting Media Lead | Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand

waea pūkoro: s9(2)(a) imēra: [@..](#)



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