

# Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters

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Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for Racing



13 February 2024

M Bell

[fyi-request-25307-ecd52f52@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25307-ecd52f52@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear M Bell,

## Official Information Act request: Independent inquiry into Covid-19

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 28 December 2023. You requested:

- A. *"Please confirm whether there is such an extreme indemnification and immunity that has been signed away in the NZ version Pfizer C19 contract documents?"*
- B. *Please confirm whether the promised coming "full scale, wide ranging, independent inquiry conducted publicly with local and international experts" will involve the appropriateness and legality of granting the extreme immunity to Pfizer?"*

*If you are unable to answer these questions, please confirm whether this is because you personally have signed a confidentiality agreement which prevents you from doing so?*

*In the coming inquiry factual responses are vitally needed for transparency yet because of the tendency to retreat behind confidentiality agreements to avoid self incrimination true transparency is in danger. Please advise what is planned to be in place to ensure that the inquiry overrides those confidentiality agreements signed by politicians and other public servants and hence compel factual responses from those called to do so?*

*As the Pfizer documents likely also forbid bringing Pfizer themselves into any disrepute what is planned to be in place to override this and compel factual responses regardless?"*

This Office does not hold information relating to your request. We believe that the information you have requested is more closely connected to the functions of the Minister of Health (Hon Shane Reti) and the Minister for Internal Affairs (Hon Brooke van Velden). Accordingly, we have transferred your request to their offices under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. The part listed under section A will be answered by the Hon Dr Shane Reti, and Section B will be answered by the Hon Brooke van Velden.

The Minister of Health and the Minister for Internal Affairs have the usual time limits from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Allen'.

**Jamie Allen**

Private Secretary (Advisory/Media)