

# Official Information Act Request

## Requester's details

**Date:** 27 February 2023

**Name:** J Bruning

**Email:** [fyi-request-25602-dfdd6aab@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25602-dfdd6aab@requests.fyi.org.nz)

**Reference number:** ENQ-47448-B9X2B6

Tēnā koe J Bruning

I refer to your request received on 2 February 2024:

A. Please confirm all members of the Decision-Making Committee (DMC) as mentioned on this page.

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.epa.govt.nz%2Fcommunity-involvement%2Fscience-at-work%2Fsars-cov-2-vaccines-and-the-hsno-act%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cministerials%40epa.govt.nz%7Cb4ab8002eaf94242e35208dc23ab1365%7C816e350867224a9e9741205ebf854538%7C0%7C0%7C638424465589929410%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PvR%2F0STSpNC5Teb5UrskmznaSCZXJQ8555xkZ1qwN5s%3D&reserved=0>

B. Please provide all information and advice sent from Tim Strabala to the Decision-Making Committee (DMC) members including Dr Kerry Laing (Chair) and Dr Julie Everett-Hincks from January 22nd to February 11 in relation to the DMC's determination whether the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine BNT162b2 (COMIRNATYTM) was a new organism for the purpose of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.

This date (Jan 22) is the rough date when it was agreed that a DMC would be convened.

All members of the DMC are listed in the decision document: [APP204176-Decision.pdf \(epa.govt.nz\)](#)

The rest of the information we are providing in response to your request is attached. Some of the information you have requested has been redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) to protect the privacy of natural persons, and some is deliberative material that has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA to protect an obligation of confidence where release would likely prejudice the supply of similar information, or

information from the same source and it is in the public interest that the information continue to be supplied.

We consider there is good reason to redact and withhold this information that outweigh the public interest in making it available.

I hope this information is helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via [ministerials@epa.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@epa.govt.nz)

We may publish your request and our response on our website, [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz). We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Hill".

Dr Christopher Hill  
**General Manager, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms**