

20 December 2024

Chris McCashin  
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Our ref: OIA 115957

Tēnā koe Chris

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 17 September 2024 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information about the alleged release of COVID-19 vaccine data by Barry Young. Specifically, you requested:

- 1. Initial Assessment completed by Ministry of Justice evaluating the credibility of the data including requesting and analyzing the data. Please include who at Ministry of Justice was tasked with this job - if an assessment has not be done why not?*
- 2. Subject to above please outline Investigations taken / taking place and the scope associated.*
- 3. Please provide all correspondence by the people notified of data breach including any and all emails/notes/memos/minutes that the personnel have been included on.*

*Ultimately, I want to see all of the steps Ministry of Justice have done to verify / investigate the data which implicates numerous government agencies in crimes against kiwis.*

On 15 October 2024, we extended the time limit to respond to your request until 14 November 2024 due to the need for external consultation. On 14 November, the Ministry decided to grant your request and advised you that a response would be provided as soon as practicable. Thank you for your patience while the response to your request has been prepared.

In response to parts 1 and 2, we originally intended to respond to your request exactly as it was framed. However, we believe that you may have misunderstood the Ministry's involvement, and we have concluded that simply explaining the Ministry's involvement will be more informative.

The Ministry has had very limited involvement in this matter. The only reason the Ministry has been involved is because there was a small amount of coronial data from closed coronial cases impacted by the data breach. The Ministry provides administrative support to the Coroners Court and its involvement was in this capacity. The Ministry had no other involvement.

In respect to part 3 of your request for correspondence, we are refusing this in full at this time. As there is an active criminal prosecution underway, we are withholding the information under section 6(c) of the Act, as its release would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law and the defendant's right to a fair trial. That may well change when the trial has concluded, so you may wish to make a further request at that time.

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz).

This response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/](https://justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/)

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman can be contacted by emailing [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Jacquelyn Shannon  
**Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery**