

09 June 2026

**Health New Zealand**  
Te Whatu Ora

Chris Johnston  
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Tēnā koe Chris,

### Your request for official information, reference: **HNZ00203684**

Thank you for your email on 14 May 2026, further to your previous request HNZ00067356 in October 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*I note the increase and volumes and the historic under reporting for various reasons. Can you be specific about which month the data collection processes were operating in a way that produces reliable data? Eg Feb 2022?*

*HealthNZ states:*

*“ Health NZ is unable to provide a breakdown of Emergency Departments (ED) presentations by*

*COVID-19 vaccination status, as this information is not linked within our IT systems. As a result, fulfilling this part of your request would necessitate the creation of new information and is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held.”*

*Can you explain this statement and justify with more detail. My understanding is that the NHI is collected across all relevant IT systems for this OIA and note the Ombudsman’s ruling that “data aggregation” is included as a perfectly reasonable request under the OIA. Data aggregation in this instance should not be overly onerous given the recent upgrade to data warehousing platforms within HealthNZ and a reasonably qualified analyst should be able to use the already written query logic for your response to date to combine with COVID related information requested*

### **Response**

Health NZ does not hold information identifying a specific month in which data collection processes became fully reliable. Data completeness and consistency improved progressively over time as more districts adopted standardised reporting practices.

Prior to the establishment of Health NZ in 2022, districts coded and collected data sets in different ways, and it was not always possible to get a national data picture. Prior to the standardised list of complaints presenting to emergency departments (chest pain, etc) each individual department would have their own method of recording patient’s complaints. As a result, this information was not collated at a national level and cannot be compared across districts.

The table below shows the number of districts (or District Health Boards before 2022) that provided data used in our initial response HNZ00061156, to which your earlier request HNZ00067356 refers. It shows that the number of districts recording the data you were seeking rose substantially between 2020 and 2021.

Year	Number of districts providing data used in HNZ00061156
2018	2
2019	4
2020	4
2021	13
2022	17
2023	19
2024	20

Please note that our districts did not all begin reporting from the start of the calendar year in which they first started using this form of reporting. In addition, the data provided is provisional, and not all 20 districts use the same code for recording this data, so the data set is incomplete. Provisional data is data which has not undergone the validation process that we use for published data.

Regarding data aggregation, as outlined in our previous response (HNZ00079974), while Health NZ holds relevant data across multiple systems (including NNPAC, NMDS, and the Aotearoa Immunisation Register), linking these datasets requires complex analytical work, including detailed knowledge of each data source, data quality considerations, and validation processes to ensure accuracy.

While technical linkage using identifiers such as the National Health Index (NHI) may be possible in some contexts, producing the information you have requested would require the creation of a new dataset through the integration and analysis of multiple sources. This goes beyond the extraction or aggregation of existing information and instead involves the creation of new information. Therefore, we stand by our refusal under section 18(g) of the OIA.

### How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [hnzOIA@tewhaturora.govt.nz](mailto:hnzOIA@tewhaturora.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



### Matthew McLay

Manager Government Services  
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