

7 May 2026

Robert Perham

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Tēnā koe Robert

## Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00201589 – Part Two

Thank you for your email on 11 March 2026, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*Under the Official Information Act 1982, I am requesting information regarding the internal administrative triage, IT security escalation, and executive communications surrounding an email sent by former employee Barry Young to the Te Whatu Ora Executive Leadership Team on November 30, 2023.*

*It is a matter of public record that Chief Executive Margie Apa replied to Mr. Young's November 30 email, signing off with "warmest regards." However, shortly thereafter, a police complaint was filed by the organization. To understand the exact timeline of how Mr. Young's internal disclosure was handled administratively and the precise moment it was escalated to a security and criminal matter, I request the following official information generated between November 30, 2023, and December 4, 2023:*

*1. Any internal emails, Microsoft Teams messages, or memos between members of the Executive Leadership Team (including Margie Apa's office) and the Te Whatu Ora IT/Cybersecurity teams discussing the receipt, content, or implications of Barry Young's November 30 email.*

*2. Any incident reports, IT security alerts, or internal risk assessments generated in direct response to the receipt of Mr. Young's November 30 email.*

*3. Any written directives, meeting minutes, or communications detailing the internal decision-making process to revoke Mr. Young's system access and file a formal complaint with the New Zealand Police.*

*To be explicitly clear, I am not requesting the raw data Mr. Young allegedly possessed, nor am I asking for the personal or medical details of any vaccinators or patients. I am strictly asking for the internal operational and administrative communications regarding how his November 30 communication was handled by Te Whatu Ora management.*

## Response

In late 2023, a former Health NZ employee allegedly released sensitive COVID-19 vaccination data, some of which was then posted on overseas websites. Health NZ takes data security seriously and is deeply disappointed by this gross breach of trust. Protecting data and ensuring the privacy of individuals is incredibly important to us. As soon as we became aware, we immediately started an internal investigation to understand the impact of the alleged breach and took urgent steps to have the information removed from websites. Alongside our operational response we are looking at our processes for data security and will make any changes that are needed to further increase the security of information.

On 9 April 2026, we responded to **Question One** and **Question Three** of your request. We also advised that pursuant to section 15(1)(a) of the OIA, a decision had been made on **Question Two** of your request however, it would take us some time to prepare the information for release.

We have now completed this part of your request and some information has been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals.
- 9(2)(ba)(i), as it is subject to an obligation of confidence, and if released, would likely prejudice the supply of similar information in the future.
- 9(2)(ba)(ii), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where making it available would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.
- 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.
- 9(2)(h), on the basis that withholding that information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.
- 6(c), where making the information available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences.
- 6(d), on the basis that making available that information would likely endanger the safety of any person.

Information that has been withheld under section 6(c) is due to the person involved in the data breach being charged with a criminal offence and as there is an ongoing trial. Some other information has been withheld under section 6(c) of the OIA because it is the subject of non-publication orders made by the Employment Relations Authority.

In cases where names and contact details have been redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA for privacy, 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA will also apply in order to protect individuals from improper pressure or harassment.

I have considered the public interest in releasing the information. However, I do not consider that this public interest outweighs the harm identified above.

## **How to get in touch**

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@tewhatuora.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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sasha Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Sasha Wood**

**Head of Government Services**

**Health New Zealand |Te Whatu Ora**