

5 June 2026

A Goodwin

fyi-request-34589-d6bb57c0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe

Your request for official information, reference: HN200203542

Thank you for your request for information, which was transferred from the Ministry of Health to Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora on 13 May 2026, asking for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

At paragraph 320 of the Phase 2 Covid Inquiry report it is noted: 'Around November 2020, the Ministry of Health established a workstream as part of the National Immunisation programme, eventually known as the Vaccine Safety Surveillance and Research Group, to manage and report on the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines.304' Please provide agendas and minutes of meetings, memos issued, publications and reports by, and communications to or from the Vaccine Safety Surveillance and Research Group. Please provide the names of members of this group.

Response

On 15 May 2026, Health NZ contacted you asking if you could refine the communications part of your request to a more specific timeline or topic. As you have not responded, and as advised in our email, we have proceeded to make a decision on your request as it stands.

As noted in our email, the Vaccine Safety Surveillance and Research (VSSR) team was a team set up within the Ministry of Health in 2020 before transferring to the National Immunisation Programme (NIP) in Health NZ in 2022. It was initially known as Post-Event, before becoming VSSR and eventually Vaccine Safety.

The team worked on vaccine safety research, provided safety monitoring tools and reporting, while assisting Medsafe by monitoring adverse events following immunisation (AEFI). Their work included the Post Vaccine Symptom Check survey, pharmacoepidemiology studies and New Zealand based immunisation research for NIP. The team also acted as secretariat of the Covid Vaccine Immunisation Safety Monitoring Board (CV-ISMB). VSSR was disestablished in November 2024.

Please provide... communications to or from the Vaccine Safety Surveillance and Research Group.

The VSSR team had a shared inbox and communicated via individual email accounts. There is a high volume of correspondence sent and received by this team over the course of five years; all of which would need to be manually reviewed. Therefore, we are refusing the information in this part under section 18(f) of the OIA, as providing it would require substantial collation and research. In making this decision, we have considered extending the timeframe to respond, or charging, as allowed under the OIA. However, neither of these options have been offered as we have determined that providing this information would unreasonably interfere with the everyday functions of the teams involved.

...agendas and minutes of meetings, memos issued, publications and reports by Vaccine Safety Surveillance and Research Group. Please provide the names of members of this group.

The group, who had many members come and go, was established in 2020 and disbanded in 2024. As such, Health NZ does not hold a comprehensive list of all members of this group over this 5-year period. However, the names of many members are publicly available in the reports and published studies. Several reports and publications by this team are publicly available:

- A research paper on thrombotic events: [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9794399/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9794399/)
- A research paper on Adverse Events pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37556109/
- Post Vaccine Symptom Check survey reports: www.healthnz.govt.nz/about-us/health-data/data-sets-and-collections/immunisation-data-and-statistics/post-vaccine-symptom-check-survey-reports
- A report on long term outcomes of myocarditis and pericarditis following vaccination: www.healthnz.govt.nz/publications/long-term-outcomes-of-myocarditis-and-pericarditis-following-vaccination-with-comirnaty

In addition, a search of our systems for “memo” or “report” has yielded more than 700 results within the team’s folders. Rather than outright refuse the information in this part of your request, we have identified and provided key documents within scope.

Please refer to **Appendix 1**, which sets out our decision on the release of documents within **Appendix 2**. We note that the post-vaccination wait times report (Document 8) was found to have some data inconsistencies (particularly around how anaphylaxis cases were classified in CARM). Please consider this when reviewing that report.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@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 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



Sara Freitag

Manager, Government Services

Appendix 1

Date	Title	Decision on release
22 July 2021	Memo – Myocarditis	Released in full.
13 August 2021	Memo – Comirnaty and thrombocytopenia	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA. In making this decision, we have considered the public interest in release and determined that it does not outweigh the need to withhold.
15 December 2021	Memo – ME/CFS following Comirnaty: Review of Available Literature and Adverse Event Reports in New Zealand.	Released in full.
30 May 2022	A Comparison of the risk of death between Comirnaty mRNA vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals with pre-existing heart conditions	Released in full.
25 July 2022	COVID-19 Vaccine Independent Safety Monitoring Board (CV-ISMB) overview	Released in full.
19 June 2023	COVID-19 Vaccine Independent Safety Monitoring Board - Final Report and Future of the Board	Released in full.
23 August 2024	Difference between intradermal and subcutaneous adverse reactions following JYNNEOS vaccination	Released in full.
15 July 2025	Time to onset and characteristics of Brighton level 1–2 anaphylaxis following COVID-19 vaccination in Aotearoa New Zealand: Implications for post-vaccination wait times	Released in full.