

25 JAN 2019

Daryl Trask  
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Ref: H201808038

Dear Mr Trask

### Response to your request for official information

I refer to your request of 29 November 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

*“Of the recent deaths from meningitis (2018) please advise how many of those had received a vaccine for this disease prior to death, also numbers of cases of meningitis hospitalisation, and of those how many had received a vaccine for meningitis prior to hospitalisation”.*

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has interpreted your request to refer specifically to meningococcal meningitis and the Ministry's response is provided to you on that basis.

The Ministry is unable to provide you with the vaccination status of those who contracted meningococcal disease as the vaccines aren't routinely on the National Immunisation Register (NIR) as they are not part of the Immunisation Schedule. Parts of your request relating to vaccination status are therefore refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act. The information requested is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

The vaccination status of patients is not routinely recorded on hospitalisation records but the reason for the hospitalisation is. Information relating to the number of hospitalisations where meningococcal meningitis was the primary diagnosis for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years is attached as Appendix One. Information on previous financial years is available at:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/publicly-funded-hospital-discharges-series>

Further information on notified meningococcal cases is publicly available at:  
[https://surv.esr.cri.nz/PDF\\_surveillance/MeningococcalDisease/2018/MeningococcalDisease\\_wk47-482018.pdf](https://surv.esr.cri.nz/PDF_surveillance/MeningococcalDisease/2018/MeningococcalDisease_wk47-482018.pdf)

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decisions under this request.

Please note, this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Ministry's website.

Yours sincerely



Ann-Marie Cavanagh  
**Acting Deputy Director-General  
Data and Digital**

## Appendix One

### Publically funded hospital discharges with a Meningococcal Meningitis primary diagnosis by Financial Year

Source: NMDS extracted 10th January 2018

| <u>Financial Year</u> | <u>Discharges</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2016/17               | 98                |
| 2017/18               | 121               |

#### Notes:

1. Meningococcal Meningitis is defined as having a three digit International Classification of Disease v8 code of 'A39', Meningococcal infection
2. Financial year runs from 1 July - 30 June
3. Some discharges are administrative, or transfers between services
4. This data counts publicly funded discharges only, but includes treatment at private facilities where that treatment was publicly funded
5. This data is a count of events, not people. A person may appear multiple times in a cell, row or column