



21 July 2023



Ref: OIA-2023/24-0010

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to Concerns regarding the Pfizer vaccine

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 8 July 2023.
You requested:

I was extremely concerned to receive recently from the Ministry of Justice recently a copy of a report dated 26 Aug 2021 of the post PfizerVax death of a 57 year old woman in July 2021 from fulminant necrotising eosinophilic myocarditis. It appears from this report that the woman, and any others with this condition, could have been saved with early diagnosis. Sadly she was not.

Please advise:

- 1) the date in July 2021 this woman's received the vaccine*
- 2) the date her death was reported to the CARM register*
- 3) the notification/reporting process including when this death was first reported to the DG health, to CARM and to the public as a possible vaccine related death*
- 4) copies of all advice to vaccinators, doctors and the public about the risk of this adverse harm from the vaccine and the dates this death was first reported to each*
- 5) information to she why this report was stamped as "This paper is proposed to be withheld in full under section 9(2)(ba) (i) of the OIA ...". who added this warning, when and why.*
- 6) When this death was considered by any of the government PfizerVax advisory committees and the information and advice provided on each occasion.*
- 7) when this death was first reported to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Covid and /or Cabinet and to the DG health?*
- 8) information to show any steps taken to reconcile ongoing claims by the government through "Unite Against Covid" to claim the PfizerVax was "safe and effective" with the knowledge that it may cause death, and how this was reconciled with fundamental rights protected by the NZ Bill of Rights (including the right to life, and right to not be subjected to medical or scientific experimentation and the right to refuse medical treatment), the protections under International covenant on Civil and Political Rights and principles of informed consent which are supported to be protected by the HDC on the one hand, and the ongoing withholding of information about possible harm and coercion through initially the various no jab no job mandates and later the discriminatory "Traffic Light" rules over the summer of 2021-22.*
- 8) information to show who in government was responsible for ensuring that messaging from Unite Against Covid as lawful and accurate and did not breach the Medicines Act,*

*Fair Trading Act, Crimes Act or any other legal or ethical obligations to the public
This matter is extremely serious and goes to public trust in elected and appointed
officials. I would accordingly appreciate an urgent response.”*

In December 2020 the COVID-19 Group was established as a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), continuing the work of the National Crisis Management Centre following the centre's deactivation on 30 June 2020.

The Group acted as a central COVID-19 response function responsible for oversight, integration and coordination across the response system as a whole. The Group was responsible for assurance to Ministers and the identification of opportunities for continuous improvement in New Zealand's response. It delivered the following functions:

- Policy and strategy – leadership and coordination of the overarching strategy for response and recovery, and coordination and integration of advice on readiness and response activities across agencies.
- System response, readiness, and planning – coordination and convening delivery agencies to ensure alignment of planning activities (including resurgence planning).
- Insights and reporting – drawing on research and evaluation (domestic and international) to ensure continuous improvement of the system.
- Risk and assurance – assurance that the right work is happening across government, in the right sequence and the appropriate place.
- Communications and engagement – leadership and coordination of public communications (including the Unite Against COVID-19 campaign), and coordination of stakeholder engagement (including business and community sectors).

The above information is provided to support your understanding of our response. I will now address each of your questions in turn for clarity.

1) the date in July 2021 this woman's received the vaccine

This is private health information which is not held by DPMC, accordingly, this part of your request is refused as the information is not held (section 18(g) refers). We note that you have made the request to the Ministry of Health (MOH), and we understand a response will be forthcoming from them. In the circumstances, while we believe MOH may hold this information, we have not transferred the request.

2) the date her death was reported to the CARM register

As with question 1, DPMC does not hold this information (section 18(g) refers), however, we believe it is likely held by MOH and as you have already made this request directly to them, we refer you to their response.

3) the notification/reporting process including when this death was first reported to the DG health, to CARM and to the public as a possible vaccine related death

DPMC believes MOH is better placed to advise you of the process for reporting adverse vaccine reactions. Again, we refer you to their response.

4) copies of all advice to vaccinators, doctors and the public about the risk of this adverse harm from the vaccine and the dates this death was first reported to each

I believe this part of your request is best addressed by MOH. DPMC may hold material in scope if this has been shared with us by MOH, however, we believe this is more closely connected with the functions of MOH and we refer you to their response. For your awareness, MOH was the lead in relation to vaccine safety and the COVID-19 group within DPMC did not provide advice on this issue.

5) *information to show why this report was stamped as "This paper is proposed to be withheld in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA ...". who added this warning, when and why.*

DPMC did not release this report and we did not add the annotation. Accordingly, DPMC does not hold the information requested. From the information provided in your request, it appears the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) released this document to you with the annotation under question. Following consultation with MOJ and MOH, we understand that MOH has transferred this part of your request to MOJ and that MOJ has confirmed they will respond. In the circumstances, it is not necessary for DPMC to also transfer this part of your request.

6) *When this death was considered by any of the government Pfizer advisory committees and the information and advice provided on each occasion.*

I interpret this part of your request to relate to consideration of this death by the Vaccine Technical Advisory Group which is within Te Whatu Ora. I believe the MOH response will address this aspect of your request. I can confirm that DPMC does not hold this information; therefore, your request is refused under 18(g), noting that a formal transfer is not required as you already made this request to MOH.

7) *when this death was first reported to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Covid and /or Cabinet and to the DG health?*

DPMC can advise that reporting adverse reactions is done through health agencies, not DPMC. Further, as the Prime Minister at the time was Rt Hon Ardern, this information would also not be known by the current Prime Minister's Office. In the circumstances, this information is not held by DPMC (section 18(g) refers) and we refer you to the MOH response.

8) *information to show any steps taken to reconcile ongoing claims by the government through "Unite Against Covid" to claim the Pfizer vaccine was "safe and effective" with the knowledge that it may cause death, and how this was reconciled with fundamental rights protected by the NZ Bill of Rights (including the right to life, and right to not be subjected to medical or scientific experimentation and the right to refuse medical treatment), the protections under International covenant on Civil and Political Rights and principles of informed consent which are supported to be protected by the HDC on the one hand, and the ongoing withholding of information about possible harm and coercion through initially the various no jab no job mandates and later the discriminatory "Traffic Light" rules over the summer of 2021-22.*

9) *information to show who in government was responsible for ensuring that messaging from Unite Against Covid was lawful and accurate and did not breach the Medicines Act, Fair Trading Act, Crimes Act or any other legal or ethical obligations to the public*

In respect of these two questions and as advised above, the DPMC did not provide advice on the safety of the vaccine and the COVID-19 group within DPMC did not provide advice on this issue. Accordingly, DPMC does not hold this information (section 18(g) refers) and we refer you to the response from MOH on this matter.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement