

20 September 2023

s 9(2)(a)

Official information request HN200025408

Thank you for your follow up email on 11 July 2023, asking for information about batches of the COVID-19 vaccines, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have specifically asked for:

“Further to your response ... can I please have the following including updates to HN200013726.

An Excel spreadsheet with the following:

- *The numbers for each brand that New Zealand entered into a purchase agreement, and sub-batch of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, purchased, used, in storage, and destroyed.*
- *For clarity, I understand that there may have been, for example, five deliveries of batch xyz which would be designated sub-batch number xyz-001, xyz-002... xyz-005.*
- *For clarity, I understand that an advance agreement for purchase may have been signed, but due to changed circumstances the number of doses delivered over time changed”*

The enclosed spreadsheet titled *HN200025408* s 9(2)(a) provides you with data that is aligned with what was previously provided in our earlier response (ref: HN200013726).

Please note the important following points regarding this data:

- It is not possible for Te Whatu Ora to provide a total number of each sub-batch of COVID-19 vaccines purchased as is specifically requested, as vaccines are purchased via Pharmac and the Ministry of Health. Additionally, vaccines purchased and vaccines received do not always match. To ensure consistency with the rest of the data requested/provided, we have included a “Total Received” column in the data sheet instead of purchase numbers.
- It is not possible for us to provide the “amount used” as requested because the number of doses administered is not always equal to the number of vials consumed, multiplied by the number of doses per vial. For example, one dose administered from a multi-dose vial is recorded as “consumption” of the vial in the COVID-19 Immunisation Register (CIR) and the base unit of the CIR is vials, not doses.
- Additionally, this calculation is impacted by non-waste adjustments. For example, dropped or lost vials, transaction incidents, and so on.
- There may be a difference in the number of vaccines received, against the number of vaccines on hand at warehouses and wasted. This is due to the distribution of vaccines from warehouses to vaccination sites, and eventual administration of the vaccines to consumers.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@health.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, Te Whatu Ora 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



Matt Hannant
**Interim Director, Prevention
National Public Health Service**