



01 July 2022



OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST - TRANSFER REFERENCE: H202205457

Thank you for your recent request, received on 17 June 2022, seeking information under the Official Information Act 1982. The Ministry of Health has transferred your request to each of the DHBs under Section 14(b)(ii) of the Act except for parts 4, 6 and 7 in which they will be responding on. You have requested the following information:

1. ***All hospital emergency room visits in the last 24 months with a patient complaining of heart issues, where the patient has claimed, as written in their notes that their issues are related to the vaccine***

We are unable to advise on the numbers of patients complaining of heart issues, where the patient has claimed, as written in their notes that their issues are related to the vaccine. Patients presenting to the Emergency Department rarely complain about their heart, instead they are most likely to complain about chest pain, palpitations, breathing difficulties, etc.

To identify these patients would require a clinical member of staff to search through several thousand free-text presenting complaint descriptions looking for items that could qualify as 'heart'. Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, we are refusing your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA. We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to your request would help, as required by section 18(a) of the OIA. However, it would not help as it would directly impact on the DHB's operations.

2. ***All acute Myocarditis, Pericarditis and Tachycardia admissions post COVID diagnosis***

There were 33 patients admitted with Myocarditis, Pericarditis or Tachycardia since July 2020. Of these, zero tested positive for COVID-19 before being admitted.

3. ***All acute Myocarditis, Pericarditis and Tachycardia admissions where the patient has claimed their issue happened post vaccination***

Of the 33 patients admitted with Myocarditis, Pericarditis or Tachycardia since July 2020 above, five were diagnosed as having a reaction to the COVID-19 vaccination.

4. ***The number of ambulance call-outs to vaccination centres including doctors clinics since roll-out began***

The Ministry of Health will be responding to this question separately.

5. ***The number of ambulance call-outs to sporting events for heart and breathing issues in the last 12 months and then the same figures in the last consecutive five years***

As Waikato DHB does not hold this information, please contact St John New Zealand for a response. Therefore, this information is withheld under Section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 because the information requested does not exist.

6. ***The number of vaccine exemptions turned down by the Director General of Health's office***

The Ministry of Health will be responding to this question separately.

7. ***The number of vaccine exemptions turned down by the Director General of Health's office where the person applying had suffered a reaction to the first vaccine***

The Ministry of Health will be responding to this question separately.

8. ***The number of ambulance admissions to emergency departments for heart and breathing or neurological issues that have been referred to in any hospital notes as anxiety since the roll-out began and the comparative figures for the last five years***

Please refer to our response to question 1 as noted above. Due to substantial collation required, the answer to this question is declined under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982.

9. ***The number of walk in admissions to emergency departments where a doctor has written anxiety on the discharge notes and the comparative figures for the last five years***

Please refer to our response to question 1 as noted above. Due to substantial collation required, the answer to this question is declined under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982.

10. ***The number of hospital emergency departments visits where anxiety has been deemed as playing a role in the last 12 months and the comparative figures for the last five years***

Please refer to our response to question 1 as noted above. Due to substantial collation required, the answer to this question is declined under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982.

11. ***The number of hospital emergency room visits where notes have referred to the person's 'Strong immune response' post COVID-19 vaccination***

Please refer to our response to question 1 as noted above. Due to substantial collation required, the answer to this question is declined under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Waikato DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publically funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review the DHB's decision. The Ombudsman's postal address is:

Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

I hope this information is of help to you.

Yours sincerely



Christine Lowry
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Waikato District Health Board