

13 September 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Ref: OIA 106871

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

### Official Information Act request: COVID-19 exemptions

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2023, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) information about COVID-19 exemptions within the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry). Specifically, you requested:

1. *how many exemptions were granted regarding the 'Covid 19 Vaccine'*
2. *And how many people received an exemption or "authorised person" status.*
3. *Also, how many people applied for exemptions?*

In response to part 1 and 3 of your request, the Ministry does not grant exemptions from mandatory vaccination, nor does it have a list of people who had applied for one. Requests for exemption from mandatory vaccination can only be assessed by a "suitably qualified medical practitioner or nurse practitioner". I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

Regarding part 2 of your request, the Ministry's database shows that only one person had the status of vaccination exemption. This includes employees of both the Ministry and Te Arawhiti – the Office of Māori Crown Relations.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/](https://justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Eve Padgett  
**Acting Deputy Secretary, Corporate and Digital Services**