



Headquarters  
New Zealand Defence Force  
Defence House  
Private Bag 39997  
Wellington Mail Centre  
Lower Hutt 5045  
New Zealand

OIA-2022-4558

8 December 2022

Casey Macmillan  
[fyi-request-21103-bfcbb898@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-21103-bfcbb898@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Casey Macmillan,

I refer to your email of 11 November 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

- *All details of the system that has been implemented by Defence to monitor for safety signals of adverse events in Defence personnel.*
- *What collection, analysis and reporting is occurring that relates to medical events (which could include serious medical events) within the NZDF which could correlate with vaccine administration...*
- *Summary of all data collected using this system....*
- *Any commentary provided to the Executive Committee or CDF regarding this system and these events, and any responses from the EXCO or CDF which is relevant.*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) health information for all service personnel is recorded in the Defence Health Management Information System (HMIS). An Adverse Vaccination Event is a coded entry in HMIS. A summary of HMIS data for the period 01 April 2021 - 28 November 2022 is provided below. For the protection of privacy, this does not include specific details of cases given the relatively low numbers involved; therefore, the details you have mentioned (severity, frequency, ages, sex and number of vaccine doses of personnel effected) are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

The total number of reported Adverse Vaccination Events is 37. Of these, 26 related to COVID-19 vaccinations with 15 noting muscle aches and/or headaches. The remaining 11 included one or more of the following: fever; nausea; rash; chest pain; swollen lymph glands. All suspected Adverse Drug Reactions are also reported by Defence Health staff to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM).

Note, the Ministry of Health publishes weekly updates on Adverse Events Following Immunisation. A small increase in incidence of myocarditis, myopericarditis and pericarditis has been seen ranging between 40.6 cases in 1 million in males 12-29 years and 4.2 cases in 1 million in females 12-29 years. The increases are lower in older age groups. Given the size and demographics of the NZDF, it is highly unlikely that any increase would be noted.

NZDF health systems are approved by the NZDF Surgeon General and Director Defence Health. The Chief of Defence Force is not involved in changes or recommendations as the Surgeon General has authority as the regulator and director of health services. Accordingly, there has been no commentary provided to the Executive Committee or the Chief of

Defence Force regarding this system or adverse vaccination events. This part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website.

Yours sincerely,



**AJ WOODS**  
Air Commodore  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF