

21 July 2022

██████████
By email: ██████████

Dear ██████████

**Re: Official Information Act request – COVID-19 Vaccination and Neonate Data -
Ref: 20220627-1256**

I refer to your Official Information Act (OIA) request dated 27 June requesting the following information:

For the OIA I would like to know all of the following :

The Covid19 vaccination status' of the mothers of the 100 plus neonates who have presented to the Starship Hospital with brain tumours this year. I understand that there are usually only 3-4 such cases per year. I also understand that these tumours are all similar and are all in highly vascularised regions of the brain.

Whether these cases have been attributed to the mother having been vaccinated during pregnancy with the Covid19 vaccine and, if not, then I would like to know what the cause behind such an increase in such similar tumours is thought to be.

Why there has NOT been a call to halt Covid19 vaccinations in pregnancies, given this startling number of similar tumours in neonates.

What dollar value compensation has been paid to each mother for her to keep her silence (I am aware that this is being done by the government so do not pretend that it is not being done).

Response

By way of context for what follows, please note that all child cancer is notified to the New Zealand Child Cancer Registry (NZCCR). See www.childcancernetwork.org.nz . Please also note that data on cases presenting to Te Toka Tumai Auckland (the former Auckland District Health Board) are also recorded within Starship Child Health.

- 1. The Covid19 vaccination status' of the mothers of the 100 plus neonates who have presented to the Starship Hospital with brain tumours this year. I understand that there are usually only 3-4 such cases per year. I also understand that these tumours are all similar and are all in highly vascularised regions of the brain.**

We do not record COVID-19 vaccine status of the mothers of child cancer patients treated at Starship Child Health. We are therefore refusing this part of your request citing s18 (e) Official Information Act – we do not hold the information requested.

We have however looked at the data for Starship's patient catchment for "brain cancer" for 2022 under age of 12 months and the result was zero. There are no neonates who have presented to Starship this year with brain cancer.

Please note that the data we have is 75 per cent of the national catchment of cancer patients. This proportion is according to the NZCCR figures for 2021.

- 2. Whether these cases have been attributed to the mother having been vaccinated during pregnancy with the Covid19 vaccine and, if not, then I would like to know what the cause behind such an increase in such similar tumours is thought to be.**
- 3. Why there has NOT been a call to halt Covid19 vaccinations in pregnancies, given this startling number of similar tumours in neonates.**
- 4. What dollar value compensation has been paid to each mother for her to keep her silence (I am aware that this is being done by the government so do not pretend that it is not being done).**


Given there are no cases of neonatal brain cancer being treated by Starship Child Health, we are refusing these parts of your request citing s18 (e) Official Information Act – the information requested does not exist.

I trust you find this information useful. If you have any questions, you can contact us at oi@adhb.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.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.



Dr Michael Shepherd
Interim Director Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland

[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz)

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
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