

Subject: Our OIA 2024/14: Vaccines
Date: Tuesday, 21 May 2024 at 8:30:06 AM New Zealand Standard Time
From: Wendy McGuinness
To: [REDACTED]
CC: Patrick Shonakan
Attachments: 20240520 OIA 2024-14 Vaccine Table.xlsx

Kia ora,

Our OIA 2024/14: Vaccines

To whom it may concern,

The Institute is currently in the process of preparing a second edition of *COVID-19 Nation Dates*. The second edition will build on the existing events as well as new events from January 2020 to May 2024. As part of this process, we came across some gaps in our knowledge on vaccines. We have been working away on trying to report the vaccine information in a complete and accurate manner. To this end we have the following questions:

Vaccine Ministers

Question 1: When were the ‘Vaccine Ministers’ established and disestablished? They are mentioned in a 12 August 2022 Cabinet Paper; see www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/20221239_covid-19_vaccine_portfolio_update_-_transfer_and_donation_0.pdf

Question 2: Please advise the names of the Vaccines Ministers, and their Chair (if there was one), and the length of time they operated as Vaccine Ministers (e.g. some may have changed over time).

Question 3: How did the role of Vaccine Minister come about and how did it operate in practice? Was this like a subcommittee of Cabinet Ministers (please explain)? Was there a terms of reference? (if yes, please provide)? Who provided advice to the Vaccine Ministers? For example, did this advice come from Pharmac and/or a vaccination advisory group of some sort, etc). Please explain and list advisors.

Question 4: What was the date the ‘COVID-19 vaccine purchasing and portfolio management’ was transferred to the Vaccine Ministers? We note that the Cabinet paper above stated that on 1 July 2022, the COVID-19 vaccine purchasing and portfolio management transferred to Pharmac? Can you provide the date it was transferred from Pharmac to the Vaccine Ministers? And/or was this responsibility with another party that was then transferred to the Vaccine Cabinet Ministers?

Vaccine stock numbers

Question 5: We have attached an Excel of vaccine information that we were able to find within the public arena. We have a few gaps and we are hoping you might be able to compare against your records and provide any answers to these gaps or errors in our understanding.

Table 1: Excel of key vaccine data (see attached excel)

Please complete and return the excel table attached. In particular, please (i) add any missing information (see yellow highlight) and (ii) check the tentative information (see green highlight). If our attempt to complete the table is wrong – please replace with correct data.

Question 6: What is the total number of vaccine doses that have been *purchased, imported into New Zealand and then discarded?*

Table 2: List of destroyed (expired or discarded) vaccine doses imported into New Zealand, 2020 to 2024.

Date paid for	AstraZeneca	Jensen	Novavax	Pfizer	Cost NZD	Explanation (e.g. expired/discarded as no longer meets strategy)

Question 7: What is the total number of vaccine doses that have been *purchased (paid for), but not delivered into New Zealand?* Please explain reasoning for each.

For example, we note in the link to Question 1 (above), that: ‘Vaccine Ministers have agreed to refuse the remaining 501,600 doses under the Janssen APA [HR20221203 refers].’ We think the 501,600 doses would be included below [see blue font in Table 3 below]?

Table 3: List of written off vaccination injections ‘paid for’ but not imported into New Zealand, 2020 to 2024.

Date paid for	AstraZeneca	Jensen	Novavax	Pfizer	Cost NZD	Explanation (e.g. donated/destroyed)
		501,600				

Question 8: We understand that a clinical trial of the ReCov vaccine was started on 24 Jun 2021.

- i. Can you advise when it finished and what the results were?
- ii. Further, we do not think New Zealand ever purchased any ReCov as part of the national vaccine stock? Can you confirm?

Question 9: When and why did New Zealand move from using the term Pfizer-BioNTech to simply Pfizer? This seems to be a global trend, but we are not sure why and when this happened?

Question 10: How much has 'Kiwi Vax' cost to date, and how much more will be invested? See www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/350201207/whatever-happened-kiwi-covid-vaccine

Question 11: Is the Novavax Booster the same as the original Novavax (as in the same dose/injection, just three doses rather than two)? If different, how best can we best distinguish between the two – e.g. Novavax (the original) and the Novavax (the booster)?

Question 12: Please clarify that one dose refers to one injection and a course refers to two doses (when referring to made the first course of Pfizer-BioNTech). Note: We have found instances early on where one dose refers to two injections. If you could also please check Table 1 carefully to ensure we have the quantities of doses correct.

Questions 13: Who made the decision not to include the stock of COVID-19 vaccines in the National Reserve Supply (NRS)? And why?
FYI; the stock of H5N1 vaccines are currently included in the composition of the NRS.

The above three tables will be included in our book *COVID-19 Nation Dates*. For this reason, we want to ensure that the data is as accurate as possible.

Thank you again for your help.

Best wishes,

Wendy

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