

22 December 2021



Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-015855**

Thank you for your email of 7 December 2021, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Total claims where Comirnaty (Pfizer vaccine) was claimed to be the cause of the condition; and,*
2. *Total claims where "long Covid", "longhailer Covid", or some sort of persistent debility related to Covid infection is claimed.*

*Please provide this information from 20 February 2021.*

**Some of the information you requested is publicly available.**

ACC has recently published two data sets related to COVID-19 vaccines one on the data.govt.nz site which can be found here: [COVID vaccination - Covid-19 vaccine related treatment injury claims - data.govt.nz - discover and use data](#)

The other dataset has been published with up to date data on ACC's website: <https://www.acc.co.nz/home/search?Search=COVID-19+Vaccination+Claims+Update++November+2021&submit.x=0&submit.y=0>. This dataset will be updated monthly.

Also on our website are published OIAs on this topic which can be found here: <https://www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12>. Therefore, we are refusing to provide the data for your request as the information is publicly available. This decision has been made under section 18(d) of the Act.

We can only respond based on the vaccine related claims lodged with ACC, and the figures may differ to those previously reported or supplied. Up-to-date data on the number of adverse effects reported from the COVID-19 vaccine can be found on the MedSafe website here: <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp>

**Long term conditions covered by ACC as a result of COVID-19 infection**

ACC provides cover for injuries caused by accidents and does not generally provide cover for illness, except in certain situations. Where ACC does cover illness, it is for those conditions that can be attributed to a particular workplace, or as an "extraordinary" consequence of health treatment.

The data set available to provide you with the count of claims where 'long covid, 'longhailer covid', or some sort of persistent debility related to covid, is reliant on the information provided on an ACC45 injury claim form, which is completed when a person seeks treatment for their injury. There are multiple fields on the ACC45 form, some fields are mandatory to complete and others are not.

There is a free-text field 'accident description' on the form where a person can provide a brief description of how their accident happened. This field is not mandatory to complete and not every client does so. Also, when the field is completed there is considerable variation in the way accidents are described, and for this reason this is an inexact data extraction method.

The data provided has been extracted for claims where the 'accident description' contains the word *covid* and one of the following; *long term, long haul, persistent, infection or virus*.

This search identified that since 20 February 2021, fewer than four claims have been received by ACC, related to long term conditions as a result of COVID-19 infection.

ACC does not routinely disclose low value numbers related to claims. Accordingly, we are refusing to provide the exact number of identified claims as a precaution against the possibility that individuals or matters specific to certain individuals may be identified. Similarly, we are refusing to confirm if those identified claims have been accepted or declined for cover.

Withholding the data in this way is necessary to protect our clients' privacy. This decision has been made under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In doing so, we considered the public interest in making the withheld figures available and determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect their privacy.

**Who to contact**

If you have any questions, you can email me at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz).

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, ACC has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available [here](#).

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sasha Wood

**Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement & Support