

17 June 2020

Simon Barbour  
c/- [www.data.govt.nz](http://www.data.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Simon

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-005118**

Thank you for your request of 2 June 2020, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*I would also like to know the breakdown of the types of injuries caused?*

**Vaccine Treatment Injury data**

Tables containing the data you have requested are provided on page three of this letter. We performed a new data extraction to retrieve this information on 5 June 2020. Some information is different to that in the original data set, as it includes more recent results.

**Some background information about Treatment Injury**

ACC has provided cover for treatment injuries since 1 July 2005. The treatment injury provisions replaced the medical misadventure provisions of the Accident Compensation Act 2001, to remove the need to attribute blame to a particular person and bring it more in line with the 'no fault' nature of the scheme.

A treatment injury is a personal injury caused as a result of a person seeking or receiving treatment from a registered health professional. In order to fulfil the criteria for cover, the client must have suffered a personal injury, there must be a clear causal link between the treatment and the injury, and the injury must not be a necessary part or ordinary consequence of the treatment.

When considering treatment injury data, it is important to note that the number of claims lodged with ACC cannot be taken as an accurate indication of the occurrence of injury during treatment. This is because, among other reasons, not all occurrences of injury during treatment are lodged with ACC.

Vaccinations are usually safe. ACC has accepted fewer than four cases where a vaccination led to death or serious injury (an internal classification used for clients who will have a lifelong relationship with ACC). This is from a total of 1,424 claims, accepted between 1 July 2005 and 31 May 2020.

The injuries in the data provided may relate to the administration of the vaccine or a specific component of the vaccine.

**Notes about the data**

Please consider the following when interpreting the data we have provided:

- Claims are represented by financial year, this being from 1 July to 30 June;
- The 2019/20 financial year is ongoing and includes data to 21 May 2020;
- Claim decisions are based on the year the decision was made, which could be in a later year to when the accident occurred;
- The data was extracted on 5 June 2020 and may differ if re-run at a later date.

ACC indicates severity of claims by comparing the number of people who only need medical treatment for their injury with the number of people who receive ACC support (entitlements such as weekly compensation or vocational rehabilitation) in addition to any initial treatment.

**How you can reach us**

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

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sasha Wood', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Sasha Wood

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

**Table 1: Number of Vaccination Related Treatment Injury Claims Decided by Financial Year**

Financial Year Decided	Accepted	Declined
2005/06	73	62
2006/07	58	71
2007/08	75	62
2008/09	67	68
2009/10	79	92
2010/11	74	71
2011/12	87	56
2012/13	107	74
2013/14	108	74
2014/15	121	93
2015/16	105	90
2016/17	138	106
2017/18	104	100
2018/19	113	123
2019/20*	115	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,424</b>	<b>1,228</b>

**Table 2: Number of accepted claims by injury type**

Injury	Number of Accepted Claims
Infection	632
Adverse reaction	468
Haematoma	98
Joint Injury/Displacement	44
Nerve Damage/Injury	33
Skin Damage/Injury/Tear	30
Inflammation	15
Tendonitis/Tendinopathy	13
Granuloma	9
Articulation injury	7
Laceration	5
Blister/boils	4
Fat Necrosis	4
Thrombocytopenia	4
Puncture	4
Contusion	4
Other injuries	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,424</b>