



NEW ZEALAND
CUSTOMS SERVICE
TE MANA ĀRAI O AOTEAROA

WELLINGTON

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PROTECTING NEW ZEALAND'S BORDER

22 April 2022

Ref: OIA 22-051

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email dated 24 March 2022 to the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"Since 01 December 2021, how many people at the NZ border have been caught by Customs with a 'fake COVID -19 vaccination certificate."

Please provide the data for each month separately and further sub-divide them into NZ citizens and non NZ citizens."

In response to your request, please find attached a document titled 'OIA 22-051 COVID-19 Certificate Non-Compliance December 2021 to April 2022', which provides a monthly breakdown of non-compliant COVID-19 vaccination certificates from arriving air passengers (including New Zealand passport holders) recorded by Customs between 1 December 2021 and 4 April 2022 (both dates inclusive). Customs' records indicate whether the COVID-19-related documentation provided by arriving passengers is compliant or non-compliant; it does not indicate whether the documentation provided is fake.

Airlines are required to check that passengers travelling to New Zealand are vaccinated. Customs is responsible for checking traveller compliance, with Customs staff checking for pre-departure testing or exemption, and vaccination verification or exemption in accordance with the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Air Border) Order (No 2) 2020.

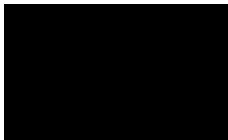
Customs receives information from our overseas liaison representatives and international partners around trends in fraudulent COVID-19-related documents that would support movement of people across borders. This information includes examples of false or fake COVID-19-related documentation, together with the techniques that can be used by Customs officers at the frontline to detect these documents. Such techniques are similar to those used in detecting false or fake passports and other identity documents.

Prior to commencing their day-to-day duties, Customs officers receive daily briefings that highlight any new information, including information related to the detection of false or fake COVID-19-related documentation and officers' operational requirements.

If you have any queries in regard to this response, please contact the Correspondence, Reviews and Ministerial Servicing Team: OIA@customs.govt.nz

Please note that Customs proactively releases responses to Official Information Act requests on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after we have sent it to you. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Nāku noa, nā



Debbie Kay

Correspondence, Reviews and Ministerial Servicing Manager

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



5 APRIL 2022

Official Information Act request:
COVID-19 Certificate Non-Compliance December 2021 to April 2022

NOTES

1. The information in this document was obtained from the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) database. While the information is considered correct at the date it was extracted (5 April 2022), it may be amended or reviewed at any time. This document contains information on the non-compliant COVID-19 certificates from arriving air passengers (including New Zealand passport holders), between 1 December 2021 and 4 April 2022 (both dates inclusive).

Information requested:

Month	All Passport Holders	NZ Passport Holders
December 2021	15	3
January 2022	34	12
February 2022	14	7
March 2022	131	105
1 April 2022 to 4 April 2022	17	16

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