

**Private & Confidential**

[REDACTED]

28 November 2022

**Our Ref. FOIR 102 022**

**Re: – FOI Decision (refuse)**

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act) 2014. Your request was received on 1 November 2022.

1. Detailed data, including graphs, showing clearly monthly excess mortality rates and numbers of excess deaths from January 1st 2021 to September 30th 2022
2. Detailed data, including graphs, showing clearly monthly excess mortality rates and numbers of excess deaths for 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020
3. Detailed data, including graphs, showing the number of monthly deaths in Ireland from January 1st 2021 to September 30th 2022, to include confirmed and/or suspected cause of death, whether or not tested Covid+ and whether or not asymptomatic, whether or not hospitalised, and full details of vaccination status.
4. Detailed data, including graphs, showing the number of monthly neonatal deaths in Ireland from January 1st 2021 to September 30th 2022. Please include vaccination status of mothers during pregnancy and up to the time of death of their babies.
5. Detailed data, including graphs, showing the number of monthly neonatal deaths in Ireland for 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020.
6. Detailed data, including graphs, showing the number of monthly stillbirths in Ireland from January 1st 2021 to September 30th 2022. Please include vaccination status of mothers during pregnancy up to time of stillbirth.
7. Detailed data, including graphs, showing the number of monthly stillbirths in Ireland for 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020.
8. Detailed data, including graphs, showing the number of monthly miscarriages in Ireland from January 1st 2021 to September 30th 2022. Please include vaccination status of mothers

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during pregnancy up to the time of miscarriage.

9. Detailed data, including graphs, showing the number of monthly miscarriages in Ireland for 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020.

10. Please provide all data collected and analysis carried out by the Department Of Health and/or HIQA from any and all International Government Reporting Systems on possible or confirmed Covid-19 vaccine injuries and deaths, such as VAERS or the UK Yellow Card System.

11. Please provide all data collected and analysis carried out by the Department Of Health and/or HIQA in respect of injury or death reported in respect of the Covid-19 vaccine in Ireland.

12. Please confirm the precise method of collection of data by the Department Of Health and/or HIQA in respect of injury or death reported in respect of the Covid-19 vaccine in Ireland and the precise system which is in place under which any such reports have been and can be made.

13. Please confirm whether or not the Department Of Health is aware that Pfizer Executive Janine Small has confirmed in the EU Parliament that no immunisation testing was carried out in respect of the Covid-19 vaccine before distribution to the public. If so, please confirm when the absence of testing in this regard was made known to the Department Of Health, providing the precise time stamped communications through which this information was so conveyed.

I have now made a final decision to refuse your request on the basis that the records sought do not exist. This decision was made today, 28 November 2022.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision. This explanation has the following parts:

1. An explanation of the relevant findings concerning the records to which access is denied, and
2. A statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these two parts in turn.

## **1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access**

### **(a) Section 15(1)(a) – Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests**

Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act states:

*"15. (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where—*

*(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken,"*

On receipt of your FOI request, a thorough search was undertaken to identify relevant records held by HIQA. This search was undertaken by staff within the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) team. No records relevant to your request were identified during this search. The HTA team have not analysed data in relation to still births, miscarriages or neonatal mortality. Furthermore, the HTA team has not analysed adverse events associated with COVID-19 vaccinations in Ireland. As the records you have sought do not exist, I must refuse your request on the basis of Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act.

## **2. Rights of appeal**

If you are unhappy with this decision you may seek an internal review. In the event that you wish to do so, please e-mail [foi@hiqa.ie](mailto:foi@hiqa.ie). The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of HIQA. Please note that a fee of €30 (€10 for medical card holders) applies in the case of an internal review.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks, from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances.

## **3. Publication**

It is the policy of HIQA to make decisions on non-personal FOI requests, including this decision letter and a copy of the records released, available to the public on our website <https://www.hiqa.ie/about-us/freedom-of-information>. Any personal information relating to you, such as your name etc. will be removed from the decision letter before this happens. This decision letter and the records released under FOI, will be added to our website approximately one week after today's date.

If you have any queries in relation to this decision, please feel free to contact the Corporate Reporting Officer Sean Lynch at [foi@hiqa.ie](mailto:foi@hiqa.ie).

Yours sincerely

Conor Teljeur  
Chief Scientist