



22 June 2021

Serene Teffaha

People for Safe Vaccines Ltd
Unit 805, Level 8, 220 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Ms Teffaha

Thank you for your letter of 08 June 2021 regarding biological weapons and COVID-19 vaccines. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The Australian Government is a strong advocate of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). We were one of the first countries to sign the BWC when it opened for signatory in 1972 and ratified the Convention in 1977. Australia continues to play an active role in international efforts to address the threat posed by biological weapons.

Australia recognises the critical role that the World Health Organization (WHO) plays supporting global pandemic responses. This includes a transparent, scientific review into the origins of COVID-19. Australia will work with the international community and WHO for a timely, transparent, evidence-based process for the next phase of the origins study.

Australia's COVID-19 response has and will continue to be transparent and open. We welcomed the work undertaken globally to develop vaccines and rollout in Australia is of the highest priority. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) continues to assess and receive ongoing vaccine efficacy and safety data as part of the Australian assessment process.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sue Langford
A/g Assistant Secretary
Arms Control Branch