



NEW ZEALAND

NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

JOINT OPERATION OF CUSTOMS, HEALTH & POLICE

IR-01-23-20584

20 July 2023

Michael K

fyi-request-23348-c5ecfec3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Michael

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 2 July 2023 regarding the synthetic opioid metonitazene. You requested:

...information about a statement released by the NZ Police facebook page on the 28th of March in 2023. The statement re-issued a warning about a synthetic opioid Metonitazene as it had been linked to serious harm in the Auckland region at that time. I would like to know what the serious harm was that occurred and how many individuals were effected

High Alert, New Zealand's Drug Early Warning System, originally issued the notification about metonitazene in October 2022 and re-issued it because an incident indicated the need for continued harm-reduction advice for public awareness.

Police is not able to comment on or provide details relating to this incident as the matter is currently under investigation. Your request is therefore refused under section 6(c) of the OIA, where making the information available would prejudice the maintenance of the law.

A range of anonymised information sources provide input into High Alert and the information gathered is put through a standardised analysis process. The results of this process determine if there is a risk of further harm to people who use drugs, which will result in an alert or notification published on the website. Lower risk situations may result in a notification being published on a case-by-case basis.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julia Smith'.

Julia Smith
Manager - Intelligence Fusion Teams
New Zealand Police