



133 Molesworth  
Street  
PO Box 5013  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand  
T+64 4 496 2000

4 August 2023

Michael Vaughan

By email: [fyi-request-23479-0d960cf5@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-23479-0d960cf5@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2023029088

Tēnā koe Michael

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 12 July 2023 for information regarding the Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Iodising Fields. You requested:

- 1) Please give details of the consumer representation on the Interagency Committee for Health Effects of Non-Ionising Fields over the last three years. Please state the name of the consumer representative and how often this person has attended meetings during the last three years.*

Consumer New Zealand represents the interest of consumers on the Committee. The name of the individual has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing information and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Meetings are held every six months. During the last three years, the consumer representative has attended two meetings. The consumer representative received the meeting notes and papers tabled at all meetings and was given the opportunity to make comments.

- 2) Please supply all information about the 'terms of reference' for this Committee.*

The terms of reference are included in an appendix in the Minister's 2022 report which is publicly available here: [www.health.govt.nz/publication/interagency-committee-health-effects-non-ionising-fields-report-ministers-2022](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/interagency-committee-health-effects-non-ionising-fields-report-ministers-2022). Please refer to page 101 for further information.

- 3) Please supply the Minutes of the most recent meeting of this Committee*

A copy of the minutes from the 16 February 2023 Interagency meeting is attached to this letter and is released to you in full.

- 4) Please specify who wrote the most recent Minutes*

Martin Gledhill wrote the most recent Minutes as the Acting Secretary.

5) *Please specify who selected the scientific reviews presented to the Committee at the most recent meeting*

Any committee member may provide reports to the meeting. John Dockerty compiled and provided the International Reports on Electromagnetic Fields (ELF), Ken Karpidis provided an update on Australian developments including scientific reports published by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), and Martin Gledhill compiled and provided the International Reports on Radio Frequency (RF).

4) *Please supply full details of the way in which Conflicts of Interest are managed with particular reference to Mr. Martin Gledhill. Please specify how the Ministry of Health is ensuring that advice provided by Mr. Gledhill is independent and in no way influenced by his company's contracts with major telecommunications companies.*

Manatū Hauora manages any conflicts of interest in line with the Controller and Auditor-General guide for public service. This is publicly available here: [oag.parliament.nz/2020/conflicts](https://oag.parliament.nz/2020/conflicts).

The EMF Services website notes their advice on health effects is guided by the findings of reviews of the relevant research that has been published by independent national and international health and scientific bodies. Information on managing their potential conflicts of interest is publicly available here: [www.emfservices.co.nz/about-us](http://www.emfservices.co.nz/about-us).

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz).

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Andrew Old  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui**