

Office of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister
Minister for National Security and Intelligence
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



14 December 2023

Merav Benaia
fyi-request-24931-ce4d148c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 019-2023-24

Dear Merav Benaia

Official Information Act request relating to evidence supporting the decision to repeal smokefree legislation

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 4 December 2023. You requested:

“Speaking to RNZ you have said that the law would have had unintended consequences including a largely untaxed black market, increased crime and issues around enforcement.

I'm asking for the evidence you have that the Smoke-free legislation you are repealing would have resulted in an increase in crime and black market. Specifically who provided this evidence and on what basis..”

I believe that the information you have requested is more closely connected to the functions of the Associate Minister of Health, Hon Casey Costello. Minister Costello has delegated responsibility for the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990. Accordingly, I have decided to transfer your request to the Associate Minister of Health under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

The Associate Minister of Health has 20 working days from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'ACB'.

PP Cameron Burrows
Chief of Staff

Office of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister
Minister for National Security and Intelligence
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14 December 2023

Hon Casey Costello
Associate Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Ref: PMO 019-2023-24

Dear Minister

Official Information Act request relating to evidence supporting the decision to repeal smokefree legislation

On 4 December 2023, I received the **attached** Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request from Merav Benaia. The request was for:

“Speaking to RNZ you have said that the law would have had unintended consequences including a largely untaxed black market, increased crime and issues around enforcement.

I'm asking for the evidence you have that the Smoke-free legislation you are repealing would have resulted in an increase in crime and black market. Specifically who provided this evidence and on what basis.”

I believe that the requested information is more closely connected to the functions of your delegated responsibility for the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990. Accordingly, I have decided to transfer the request to you under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

I have today informed the requestor of the transfer, and that you have the usual time limits to make a decision.

Yours sincerely

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

PP Cameron Burrows
Chief of Staff