

Reference: 20170017



1 February 2017

David Johnston
fyi-request-5220-4cda3cde@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear David Johnston

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 25 January 2017. This request was first received by Inland Revenue on 16 December 2016 and transferred to The Treasury under section 14 of the Official Information Act. You requested:

"If available, can you please provide any estimates Inland Revenue has made re: the potential yearly tax revenue from the sale of cannabis, were New Zealand to adopt a legal for sale cannabis policy."

Inland Revenue has not made any estimates of tax revenue from the sale of cannabis. However, last year the Minister of Finance released under the OIA a note prepared by the Treasury for an informal forum, which referred to drug classification reform and potential revenue from taxing cannabis. This was not a formal cost-benefit analysis. This OIA release was subsequently discussed on Radio NZ. You can hear the interview and see the release information on the RNZ website at:
<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/201808796/endorsement-of-reforming-government-policy-on-cannabis>.

Information Publicly Available

Following the media reports on the topic, two further OIA requests were made to the Treasury about the drug classification note. This information is also covered by your request and is publicly available on the Treasury website:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1.	25 August 2016	Information regarding the drug classification note	http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/oia/oia-20160279.pdf
2.	6 October 2016	Cannabis and related issues	http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/oia/oia-20160330.pdf

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

1 The Terrace
PO Box 3724
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www.treasury.govt.nz

Some relevant information has been removed from documents listed in the above table and should continue to be withheld under the Official Information Act, on the grounds described in the documents.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This fully covers the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben McBride', written in a cursive style.

Ben McBride
Manager, Health