

18 April 2023

J A Harris
fyi-request-21324-a5a0a13b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear J A Harris

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 7 March 2023, in which you asked for further information regarding your previous OIA request IR-01-23-449 relating to Medicinal Cannabis. On this occasion you asked:

*"Please provide details or copies of any "Panui" content or any other Police bulletin, Police instruction, email, newsletter, training, or other internal communication which references medicinal cannabis.
I find it very hard to believe a major law change involving controlled drugs has apparently had no communication or instruction given to frontline staff to ensure it is managed appropriately."*

"Part 14 Medical Cannabis" and "Part 15 Police discretion with possession/use of controlled drugs and/or possession of utensils offences" of police Instructions have both previously been referred to you in your previous requests and are available via the following links:

<https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/drugs-part-14-medicinal-cannabis-280622.pdf>

<https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/drugs-part-15-police-discretion-with-possession-use-of-controlled-drugs-280622.pdf>

Please also find attached the following documents in relation to your above request:

- Panui Bulletin Board Notice dated 20 December 2017 advising staff of the announcement of the Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Bill.
- Police Instructions News dated 21 December 2018 advising staff of a new section of the Police Manual Chapters under – Drugs – Part 14 Medicinal Cannabis.
- Panui Bulletin Board Notice dated 21 December 2018 – New 'Part 14 – Medicinal Cannabis' in the 'Drugs' chapter.
- Police Instructions News dated 8 October 2021 advising staff of amendment to – Drugs – Part 14 Medicinal Cannabis.

Some of these documents contained information and references to material that is out of scope of your request, therefore it has been redacted.

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 'D Kirby', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Kirby
Detective Inspector
National Criminal Investigation Group
New Zealand Police

You have been successfully
authenticated

Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Bill announced

by **HARPER-HINTON, Lily [LHFY38]**

Created on behalf of

CHAMBERS, Richard [RCY408]

Published on 20/12/2017

Last modified 20/12/2017 - 1:13 pm

The Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Bill (the Bill) has been tabled in Parliament. The Bill aims to improve access to medicinal cannabis for terminally ill people and those in chronic pain.

The proposed Bill would amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 to:

- introduce an exception and statutory defence for terminally ill people to possess and use illicit cannabis;
- provide a regulation-making power to enable the setting of standards that products manufactured, imported and supplied under licence must meet; and
- deschedule cannabidiol as a controlled drug.

Any changes are not expected to come into effect until 2019, after the Bill has gone through the Parliamentary process. An advisory committee will be established and consultation will be undertaken.

Police will work with the Ministry of Health on the details of any resulting legislation, to support the implementation of a workable, safe and regulated regime for therapeutic purposes.

Police staff should continue to use appropriate discretion, taking into account all of the circumstances, in determining whether to proceed with arrest or prosecution, including the circumstances of the defendant.

More information about the proposed changes can be found [here](#).

The Minister of Health's media release can be found [here](#).

Richard Chambers

Assistant Commissioner: Investigations

Category:

Operational

District:

National Auckland Bay of Plenty

Canterbury Central Counties Manukau

Eastern Northland
PNHQ/Service Centres RNZPC
Southern Tasman Waikato
Waitematā Wellington

Police Instructions News - 21 December 2018

by GIESEKE, Horst [HGZ815]

Created on behalf of

RODGERS, Wayne [WRE411]

Published on 21/12/2018

Last modified 21/12/2018 - 11:22 am



Te Korero Nga Pirihimana I Nga Korero

The following Police Instructions have been added, cancelled, extended or amended.

Delegations

- [REDACTED]

Agreements (MOU, AISA, LOA, SLA etc.)

- [REDACTED]

Police Manual chapters

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Drugs - Part 14 Medicinal cannabis –
New (See Panui bulletin message
for details)
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Category:

Police Instructions

District:

National Auckland Bay of Plenty

Canterbury Central Counties Manukau

Eastern Northland
PNHQ/Service Centres RNZPC
Southern Tasman Waikato
Waitematā Wellington

New 'Part 14 – Medicinal cannabis' in the 'Drugs' chapter

by VLIETSTRA, Colin [CVBT50]

Created on behalf of

DUINDAM, Robert (Rob) [RD7864]

Published on 21/12/2018

Last modified 21/12/2018 - 7:31 am

Part 14 – Medicinal cannabis is a new part added to the Drugs chapter. The 'part' provides legislative and good practice guidance relating to the Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Act 2018 that came into force on 18 December 2018 with:

- using discretion
- applying:
 - fairness
 - quality and safety
 - compassion.

The key elements and implications include:

- Definitions of terms applicable to the amendments arising from the Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Act.
- Legislative amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.
- Policy and practice for dealing with palliation patients who use cannabis, in particular:

- procedure to be applied for people claiming to be palliation patients who possess/use cannabis
- palliation patients smoking cannabis in smoke-free work places and public areas
- operating a vehicle under the influence of cannabis.
- What remains illegal after the medicinal cannabis amendment?
- Frequently asked questions.

This chapter applies to all constables and Police employees involved with drug enforcement in Districts and PNHQ.

Click on this link for more information from [Part 14 – Medicinal cannabis](#) in the [Drugs](#) chapter.

Category:

Police Instructions

District:

National

Police Instructions News - 8 October 2021

by GIESEKE, Horst [HGZ815]

Created on behalf of

RODGERS, Wayne [WRE411]

Published on 08/10/2021

Last modified 08/10/2021 - 9:51 am



Te Korero Nga Pirihimana I Nga Korero

The following Police Instructions
and Forms have been added,
cancelled, extended or amended.

Agreements (MOU, AISA, LOA, SLA etc.)

- [REDACTED]

Local Orders (District related instructions)

- [REDACTED]

Police Manual chapters

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Drugs Part 14 Medicinal cannabis – *Amended* (A review has been completed to ensure Part 14 is fit for purpose. Only minor amendments are required to align with the legislation and improve the headings for the content)
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Police Forms

Added or updated forms

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Category:

Police Instructions

District:

National Auckland Bay of Plenty
Canterbury Central Counties Manukau
Eastern Northland
PNHQ/Service Centres RNZPC
Southern Tasman Waikato
Waitematā Wellington