

15 June 2023

Mr McDonald
fyi-request-22835-853a04ed@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr McDonald

Official information request HNZ00019695

Thank you for your request for information on 17 May 2023 asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please see outlined below a response to your request.

“Q. How many patients have been prescribed medicinal cannabis since the start of the legal medicinal cannabis scheme?”

Q. How many prescriptions have been written for medicinal cannabis since the start of the medicinal cannabis scheme?”

Q. What is the average amount of cannabis prescribed per doctor's prescription? Please provide your answer in units detailing quantity and strength.

Please refer to **Appendix one** which provides a response to questions 1 and 2.

In order to provide a response to question 3, Te Whatu Ora would need to review all of the items prescribed, by prescriber, the dosage and quantity of each and every script and do an average. This would require significant time and effort, and the diversion of personnel from their core duties. The diversion of these resources would impair Te Whatu Ora's ability to carry out our other core functions. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, requires substantial collation.

I have considered whether fixing a charge for the supply of the information or extending the timeframe for response would enable Te Whatu Ora to respond. I do not consider that either option would remove the impact that supplying the information would have on our other operations.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Gaynor Bradfield', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gaynor Bradfield
Manager
Office of the Chief Data and Digital