

s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 7 March 2020 for:

“Prescribing of medicinal cannabis products

Information requested:

Information from section 29 (Medicines Act 1981) returns filed between January 2019 and the end of February 2020 that gives a monthly picture of:

- 1) the name, dose form, and strength of each medicinal cannabis product supplied each month under section 29*
- 2) the number of prescriptions for each product per month and/or the number of patients for each product per month*
- 3) the number of prescribers for each product per month”*

In response to part 1 of your request, 21 different products containing cannabis (as CBD and/or THC) were notified as having been supplied over the period requested.

The total number of packs supplied each month is summarised in the table below.

Table 1. Total number of packs supplied each month

Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20
288	202	294	388	569	333	637	476	1389	610	1272	927	1044	722

Please note that the number of packs relate to the number supplied as notified to, and received by, Medsafe up until 7 March 2020.

Information on the specific products supplied by Medsafe is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; and
- 9(2)(ba)(i) – to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

I am unable to provide a response to parts 2 and 3, as this information is not required to be supplied to Medsafe and held by Medsafe, though it must be held by the supplier and available to Medsafe if needed. Where not held, this information is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

Some information has been supplied to Medsafe, but this cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. This information is refused under section 18(f) of the Act. Further to this, please note that the information requested would also need to be withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, as making this available would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is subject to the information.

I trust that this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Medsafe website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe