

23 May 2022

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202205564

Dear § 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 24 April 2022 for information relating to data held on prescriptions issued to doctors. You specifically requested:

“Does the government collect, hold or aware of a data set that matches prescriptions issued to doctors? Say if a Dr was disproportionately prescribing pseudoephedrine (or any non govt funded, prescription only generic drug) would this be picked up on? If not, why isn't this data collected?”

We have interpreted your request to relate to datasets of prescription information held by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) where prescribing activities are monitored.

The Ministry holds datasets containing prescription data that can be used to review specific issues, including where concerns are raised that a prescriber may be inappropriately prescribing medicines or controlled drugs. This includes ProClaim, which contains information relating to the dispensing of prescriptions where the supply is subsidised or funded and Electronic Prescription Monitoring (containing information relating to the dispensing of prescriptions for class A and class B controlled drugs). Within the datasets, individual patients are not identified in respect of their status as a prescriber.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe