

24 May 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202206156

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 10 May 2022 for:

“What medication is used in NZ for assisted dying? Is it phenobarbitone (nembutal) and if so in what forms is it available? Tablets, liquid or IV?”

This information is withheld under section 9(2)(c) of the Act to avoid prejudice to measures to protect the health or safety of the public. Details and names of the medicines are not be made publicly available due to restrictions on promotion and legislative criteria. For safety reasons the detail of the medication is only provided to the practitioners who have completed the required training. For further information on assisted dying please see here: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/life-stages/assisted-dying-service. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

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.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Ruihua Gu
**Acting Group Manager, Quality Assurance and Safety
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