

29 August 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022009734

Dear 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 Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 9 August 2022 for:

“...data held by Health New Zealand regarding the number of licenses given to new vape retailers in Wellington over the past three years. I’m specifically requesting a break down detailing how many new licenses have been approved annually over the past three years and how many licensed retailers are currently in Wellington.”

The following table details the number of approvals granted for Approved Vaping Premises in the greater Wellington region since 11 August 2021, being the date from which approvals were able to be granted.

Year	Vaping Premises applications approved
2021	44
2022	19

Approvals for Approved Vaping Premises remain in force until Manatū Hauora has been notified that the premises have ceased to operate, or the approval is revoked or cancelled.

Please note that Approved Vaping Premises approvals can only be granted to operators who hold a Specialist Vape Retailer approval. A Specialist Vape Retailer may operate multiple Approved Vaping Premises.

The Vaping Regulatory Authority has not revoked or cancelled any approvals for Approved Vaping Premises and has not been notified of any premises which have ceased to operate in the greater Wellington region.

Manatū Hauora does not hold data on the number of general retailers as they are not required to hold an approval. Noting general retailers are restricted to selling notified vape products of three flavours (tobacco, mint and menthol), whereas Approved Vaping Premises may sell any notified product.

I trust 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. 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.

Yours sincerely



Chris James
Licensing Authority
Vaping Regulatory Authority