

29 September 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H2022011205

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 the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 26 August 2022 for information regarding the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) testing process. Each part of your request is responded to below.

*1) Your approach to the calculation of THC content as defined in the industrial hemp regulations*

Medsafe follows the definition of THC content stated in regulation 4 [Interpretation] of the Misuse of Drugs (Industrial Hemp) Regulations 2006 (the Regulations), being:

**THC content**, in relation to a hemp plant, means the content of delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol and delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinolic acid of the plant expressed as a percentage of the dry weight of the plant.

*2) Your position on the effectiveness of the THC testing regime*

*3) All supporting information relied upon to support you position on the THC testing, pre and post the change in the Industrial Hemp Regulations in November 2018.*

Medsafe does not have a defined position on the effectiveness of the regime, and therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

*4) The study, information and correspondence provided by ESR to document the testing protocol, pre and post the change in the Industrial Hemp Regulations in 2018.*

This part of your request is more closely connected to the functions of the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR). Therefore, Manatū Hauora has decided to transfer this part of your request to ESR under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response from ESR in due course.

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](mailto: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](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris James', written in a cursive style.

Chris James  
**Group Manager**  
**Medsafe**