

28 November 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022016110

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 (the Ministry of Health) on 2 November 2022 for:

“...the number of packs of medicinal cannabis products prescribed for the periods Sept and October 2022 broken down by product.”

On 7 November 2022 we contacted you regarding a clarification of your request, specifically whether you were requesting information regarding only unapproved medicinal cannabis products, or both approved and unapproved. This was unnecessary in processing your request. The requirement for reporting to Medsafe only applies to unapproved medicines supplied under the exemption provisions in section 29 of the Medicines Act. Medsafe does not receive information on the supply of medicinal cannabis products that have been granted consent for distribution as medicines. We sincerely apologise for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

Please find a response to your original request below.

The number of packs of medicinal cannabis products reported as supplied under the exemption provisions in section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981 for September 2022 are:

- 2179 packs containing both cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)
- 3243 packs containing CBD
- 158 packs containing THC

When considering these data, it is important to note:

- That the number of packs supplied cannot be used to determine the number of prescriptions, or the number of doses, or the number of patients.
- Reporting information is supplied retrospectively and therefore the number of packs reported as supplied in this response is accurate at the time of preparing the response but may change if additional reports are received.

You have also requested information for October 2022. As this information is supplied retrospectively, the information for supply in October 2022 had not been provided to Medsafe at the time of your request. This part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information is not held by Manatū Hauora or any other agency subject to the Act.

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 Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Yours sincerely



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe