

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2023022515

Tēnā koe s

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 24 March 2023 for information regarding data on medicines containing cannabidiol (CBD) and/or tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). You requested:

“... the data on medicines containing cannabidiol (CBD) and/or tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) supplied under Section 29 during the period January 2022- March 2023. Please provide the total number of packs for each month across all pack forms.

Also, more specifically, please provide:

- The number of packs of products defined as CBD only (<2% THC) that have been distributed to patients by month from January 2022 – March 2023.*
- The number of packs of products defined as containing CBD and THC that have been distributed to patients by month from January 2022 – March 2023.*
- The number of packs of products defined as THC only (<2% CBD) that have been distributed to patients by month from January 2022 – March 2023.”*

Information available in scope of your request is enclosed as Appendix 1. This includes the information from 1 January 2022 to 28 February 2023 for medicinal cannabis products that have been verified as meeting the minimum quality standard, and that have been supplied under the exemption provisions in section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981.

The data for supply in March had not been received by Medsafe at the time of your request. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) as the information requested is not held by Manatū Hauora and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

Please note, to be considered a ‘CBD product’ under Section 2A of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975, the THC content (and specified substances) within the product must not exceed 2 percent of the total CBD content of the medicine.

When considering the data provided, it is important to note:

- That the number of packs supplied cannot be used to determine the number of prescriptions 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 extracting the data, but may change if additional reports are received.
- Sativex has consent for distribution as a medicine, and so supply of Sativex is not included in the figures supplied. Information on the supply of Sativex is not held by either Manatū Hauora or Medsafe.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe

APPENDIX 1

Number of packs of products containing cannabidiol only

2022

| Month | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| No. of packs | 2140 | 2315 | 2618 | 2380 | 3163 | 3030 | 2912 | 3404 | 3243 | 3472 | 4313 | 4338 |

2023

| Month | Jan | Feb |
|--------------|------|------|
| No. of packs | 3844 | 3960 |

Number of Packs of products containing tetrahydrocannabinol only

2022

| Month | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of packs | 404 | 325 | 373 | 372 | 429 | 396 | 626 | 425 | 158 | 387 | 747 | 512 |

2023

| Month | Jan | Feb |
|--------------|-----|-----|
| No. of packs | 507 | - |

Number of Packs of products containing both tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol

2022

| Month | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| No. of packs | 790 | 580 | 1075 | 1177 | 1068 | 911 | 1830 | 2586 | 2179 | 2478 | 2917 | 3557 |

2023

| Month | Jan | Feb |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| No. of packs | 2765 | 2862 |