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1 June 2023

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2023024782

Tēnā koe

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your follow up request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 4 May 2023 as a follow up to information previously provided to you regarding a puberty blockers webpage (H2023022566 refers). You requested:

*"The original claim was that evidence had changed resulting in the removal of the puberty blocker content from the website. This response says "Manatū Hauora reduced the website content regarding puberty blockers while an evidence brief to support this area was being completed."*

*This is inconsistent. If the content was removed prior to evidence being available, please state this was the case. If the content was removed on the basis of information from UK/Norway/Sweden, please provide that information.*

*If neither of these are the case, was the original tweet a lie, and the page was not changed as a result of evidence available to the MoH at that point in time?"*

The adjustment to the line in the webpage was precautionary and made while further work was done.

Manatū Hauora noted other jurisdictions were taking a more cautious approach with the Gonadotrophin Releasing Hormone Analogues (GnRHa) medications. A specific reference, included the UK NICE, is publicly available here: [segm.org/sites/default/files/20210323\\_Evidence%2Breview\\_GnRH%2Banalogues\\_For%2Bpublo ad\\_Final\\_download.pdf](https://www.segm.org/sites/default/files/20210323_Evidence%2Breview_GnRH%2Banalogues_For%2Bpublo ad_Final_download.pdf).

An initial scan of the literature showed studies examining the longer-term effects of the GnRHa were found to be limited in quality and number.

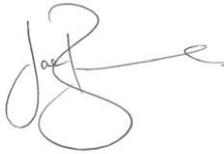
Another consideration was that this intervention relates to young people in a critical stage of physiological and psychological development such that an informed approach would be important to support. Due to this, work on the open question of 'safety and reversibility' of GnRHa was specifically requested.

Please note, Manatū Hauora has not advised any change to access to services for young people. Any evidence is to provide support to inform clinical decision making. Manatū Hauora emphasises the importance of obtaining clinical guidance from the treating physician for any individual and whanau seeking gender affirming healthcare.

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 Manatū Hauora 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).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Bourne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Joe Bourne  
**Chief Medical Officer**  
**Manatū Hauora-The Ministry of Health**