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19 April 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024037791

Tēnā koe s 9(2)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred from the Office of the Associate Minister of Health, Hon Casey Costello to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 12 March 2024. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

Please advise how many vaping sales exist

The number of vaping product retailers is available on the Ministry of Health's public register online here: <https://vaping.harp.health.nz/search/1DC97E34-E3F1-40E3-ADFE-30092B36F21C>.

The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 requires the Ministry to publish the annual sales returns from retailers, manufacturers and importers of notifiable products, including vaping products, herbal smoking products and smokeless tobacco products.

The annual vaping product returns filed by manufacturers and importers, distributors and specialised vape retailers for the 2022 calendar year is available on the Ministry's website at: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/vaping-herbal-smoking-and-smokeless-tobacco-products-regulation/information-retailers-notifiable-products/vaping-product-annual-returns/vaping-product-returns-2022.

The Ministry is currently undertaking submissions from retailers, importers and manufacturers of regulated products (vaping, smokeless tobacco and herbal smoking products) to submit their annual sales return for the 2023 calendar year. These submissions will close at midnight on 28 April 2024.

As this data is currently in the process of being collected, the Ministry is currently unable to provide this information to you at this point in time. However, the 2023 data will be published later in 2024.

We ask why is the government not banning the import and sale of vapes when they are both killing and damaging the health of our children and youth. It is disgraceful that you do not take this action to protect us

The Government is committed to reducing smoking rates and this means ensuring that people have the practical tools and support to quit smoking, including being able to access vapes. Vaping is significantly less harmful than smoking.

At the same time, the Government would like to see vaping rates come down and is exploring ways to better achieve this. You may be aware that the Government has recently announced a ban on disposable vapes. Penalties for supplying vape products to anyone under 18 are also increasing. Other measures include further retailer restrictions and a better enforcement system to ensure they are following the rules. More information on this announcement is available here: www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-crack-down-youth-vaping.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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



Jane Chambers
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