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16 November 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024056182

Tēnā koe 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 – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 18 November 2024. You requested:

*“The total times adult entertainment websites have been blocked by your agency's web filter, on staff devices or any work environment.
-If you require a list to search this, please use your own discretion.*

A breakdown of these figures by month”

The Ministry uses a service provider that blocks websites and identifies ‘adult entertainment websites’ as websites that would include the following content categories: nudity, pornography, gambling, violence, and/or other adult material.

The Ministry has an ICT acceptable use policy, which requires the usage of the Ministry’s ICT systems to be for lawful, proper purpose and in accordance with the Ministry’s Code of Conduct at all times. Limited personal use of the internet and email is acceptable. The Ministry has security controls in place that block staff from either intentionally or inadvertently visiting sites that are deemed unacceptable. I can advise that no staff member has been found to be in breach of the code of conduct due to accessing adult entertainment websites during the time period outlined below (May 2024 – October 2024).

The Ministry subscribes to a service that retains logs of website traffic for 6 months. The following table shows the number of hits of adult entertainment websites from May to October 2024, broken down by month. It is not possible to identify how many hits on “adult entertainment websites” have been intentional as they may occur due to website redirects or embedded website advertisements, or some links embedding in email content. It is also not possible to identify how many hits are unique as loading a website may record multiple hits if there are multiple content elements such as images.

Some of the activity represented in the table is also associated with technical testing by IT staff while validating the effectiveness of content filtering controls. Additionally, some activity represented may involve web addresses incorrectly categorised and as such, incorrectly blocked.


Month	Total of hits that resulted in website blocks
May 2024	46
June 2024	63
July 2024	45
August 2024	48
September 2024	34
October 2024	36

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



Celia Wellington
Deputy Director-General
Corporate Services | Te Pou Tiaki