

133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

17 March 2026

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2026079376

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 27 February 2026 for information regarding Smart Meters. Each part of your request is responded to in turn:

Any Cabinet minute, Cabinet paper, Cabinet Office circular, Ministerial direction, or machinery-of-government decision that assigns responsibility for oversight of radiofrequency (RF) exposure from Advanced Metering Infrastructure (smart meters).

The Ministry has not identified any information in scope of this part of your request. Therefore, section 18(g)(i) of the Act applies, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

Any documentation identifying a lead agency responsible for:

- *Oversight of RF exposure standards as they relate to smart meters;*
- *Cross-agency coordination regarding smart meter RF concerns;*
- *Periodic reassessment of NZS 2772.1:1999 in light of AMI deployment.*

If no such allocation instrument or executive assignment exists, please confirm that no explicit allocation document is held.

I am seeking confirmation of formal allocation of responsibility, not scientific assessment material.

The Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-ionising Fields (the Committee) monitors and reviews research on the health effects of electromagnetic fields (including smart meters). This committee is convened by the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry makes recommendations to other government agencies on suitable Standards to use to protect against harmful effects of exposures to radiofrequency fields.

In relation to potential reassessment, as noted in the Committee's report to Ministers 2022:

ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection) confirmed in 2020 that the limits on which it is based remain protective for current commercial applications of RF

technology. Reviews of the health research carried out since 1999 by national and international expert panels have also found no good reason to revise the fundamental limits. The underlying science behind the exposure limits in NZS 2772.1 has not changed since it was published.

The committee's report to Ministers is available on the Ministry's website at: www.health.govt.nz/publications/interagency-committee-on-the-health-effects-of-non-ionising-fields-report-to-ministers-2022.

Smart meters are directly discussed on page 45 of this report.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Corina Grey
Director of Public Health
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui