

Minister of Health

Addressing nitrous oxide misuse

29 June 2026

These documents have been proactively released by the Ministry of Health on behalf of the Minister of Health, Hon Simeon Brown

Title of Cabinet paper: Addressing nitrous oxide misuse

Title of minutes:

- Report of the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee: Period Ended 28 April 2026 (CAB-26-MIN-0132)
- Minute of Decision: Addressing Nitrous Oxide Misuse (SOU-26-MIN-0035)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction code/s:

Legislation	Conclusive reasons to withhold official information
Section 6(a)	Prejudice New Zealand's defence, security or international relations.
Section 6(b)	Prejudice any international government or organisations entrusting information to the government on a basis of confidence.
Section 6(c)	Prejudice the maintenance of the law (including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial).

Legislation	Conclusive reasons to withhold official information
Section 6(d)	Endanger the safety of any person.
Section 6(e)	Seriously damage the economy by prematurely disclosing decisions to change or continue with Government economic or financial policies.
Section	Other reasons to withhold official information
Section 9 (2)(a)	Protect the privacy of natural persons (including the privacy of a deceased person).
Section 9 (2)(b)	Protect information where the making available of the information would disclose a trade secret or would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
Section 9 (2)(ba)	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person is compellable to provide, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information or information from a similar source and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied, or it would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.
Section 9 (2)(c)	Avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public.
Section 9 (2)(d)	Avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand.
Section 9 (2)(e)	Avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public.
Section 9 (2)(f)	Maintain the constitutional conventions which protect confidentiality of communications by or with the Sovereign or her representative, collective and individual ministerial responsibility, the political neutrality of officials, and the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.
Section 9 (2)(g)	Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by, between, or to, Ministers, officers and employees of a Department or members of an organisation, in the course of their duty, or through protection of any of them from improper pressure or harassment.
Section 9 (2)(h)	Maintain legal professional privilege.

Legislation	Conclusive reasons to withhold official information
Section 9 (2)(i)	Enable a Minister or Department to carry out commercial activities.
Section 9 (2)(j)	Enable a Minister or Department to carry out negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage.
Section 9 (2)(k)	Prevent the disclosure or use of information for improper gain.