

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref. H201806790

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

I refer to your request of 3 October 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following information:

How many attempts were made to access websites classified as pornographic in 2017 at the Ministry.

How many employees were warned or disciplined for accessing or attempting to access pornography websites in 2017

To respond to your request, the Ministry ran a report on the number of attempts to access websites blocked by our internet proxy service's "pornography" filter in 2017. This high-level report returned a total of 580 blocked attempts. It is important to note that this figure includes all items which triggered the proxy service's match definition. There is a significant distinction to make between websites that the robust filter classifies as pornographic, and websites that contain pornographic content.

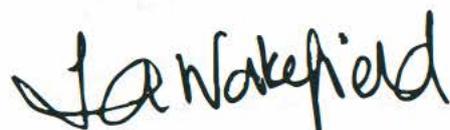
An initial look at a week of data showed that all the sites blocked were ones related to 'end of life' care, which are legitimate. It is expected that the remainder were also attempts to access legitimate websites.

The Ministry has a comprehensive work programme to lead New Zealand's health and disability sector, including sexual health. The Ministry is a member of the Office of Film and Literature Classification's cross-Government Pornography Working Party to investigate the use of pornography in New Zealand and to coordinate related work and advice. The Ministry's Sexual and Reproductive Health Action Plan is also expected to be published soon, and includes actions to address the harmful impacts of pornography. The nature of our wide-ranging work and research means it is not uncommon for the internet proxy service filter to return false positive blocks.

In response to the second part of your request, no Ministry employees were warned or disciplined for accessing, or attempting to access, pornographic websites in 2017.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely



Tina Wakefield
**Acting Deputy Director-General
Corporate Services**