

01/02/2021

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202100277

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 20 January 2021 for information relating to hydroxychloroquine and the treatment of COVID-19.

You specifically requested:

“...I would like all records relating to the material that the Ministry reviewed in making any determinations regarding the use of Hydroxychloroquine in relation to treatment of COVID-19, including any written findings or memorandums papers generated as a consequence of that evaluation”.

No company has made an application to Medsafe for the use of hydroxychloroquine. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist. Hydroxychloroquine did not demonstrate an overall benefit in the treatment of COVID-19, as advised by the World Health Organization. Further information can be found at: www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-hydroxychloroquine.

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry), of which Medsafe is a part, relies on reputable sources of information in order to tailor its COVID-19 response. No evidence has been provided to the Ministry that is not publicly available to suggest that hydroxychloroquine is useful in the response to COVID-19. It can also cause significant adverse reactions in some people. You may also be interested to know that information on the COVID-19 approval process for medicines is available on the Medsafe website at: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/medicine-approval-process.asp.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decision 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.

Yours sincerely



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe