

23 March 2021

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202103211

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred from the Office of Dr Ayesha Verrall on 18 March 2021 for:

“This is an Official Information Act (1982) request for the research and professional advice used to back up the Ministry of Health’s claim that “Blockers are a safe and fully reversible medicine”


The information on the Ministry of Health’s (the Ministry) website is supported by the *Guidelines for Gender Affirming Healthcare for Gender Diverse and Transgender Children, Young People and Adults in Aotearoa New Zealand* published in 2018. These guidelines are available on the University of Waikato’s Research Commons’ website: www.researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz, by searching the title. It is also supported by the Standards of Care developed by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, which can be found on its website: www.wpath.org/publications/soc.

It is important to note that the Ministry’s website is intended to provide general health advice. For the treatment of young transgender New Zealanders, it is the responsibility of the treating clinician to consider the appropriateness of a treatment for a patient, and to ensure that the patient is informed of the risks and benefits associated with that treatment. Informed consent should be obtained by the clinician from the patient before the choice is made to prescribe the medicine.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clare', with a small flourish at the end.

Clare Possenniskie
Manager
Office of the Chief Clinical Officers