

12 October 2022

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022012568

Dear § 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 13 September 2022. You specifically requested:

“...copies of all export application approvals for NZ grown flower since September 1st 2021.

The information specifically we seek is the loss on drying test results for each”

The Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Regulations 2019 set out the minimum quality standard that all medicinal cannabis products and starting material for export, must have been verified to meet before they can be supplied or exported.

The Medicinal Cannabis Agency confirms that seven applications for starting material for export have been received to date. Six of those applications from four different applicants, have been verified as meeting the minimum quality standards set for starting material for export, including the limit for loss on drying of not more than 10%. One application is currently under assessment.

The respective applications and Certificates of Analysis that captures the loss on drying information requested have been withheld in full under one of the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) – where it’s release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information and;
- Section 9(2)(ba)(ii) – to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely damage the public interest.

I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

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 black ink, appearing to be 'MS', written over a circular scribble.

Matthew Spencer
Acting Licensing Authority
Medicinal Cannabis Agency