



21 October 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022013129

Tēnā koe s 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 21 September 2022 for information regarding New Zealand Public Health and Disability (Alcohol Levy) Order 2022. You requested:

*“With the changes associated with the introduction of the new Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022, Health Sector Transfers (Health New Zealand to Māori Health Authority) Order 2022, Health Sector Transfers (Ministry of Health to Health New Zealand) Order 2022 and the New Zealand Public Health and Disability (Alcohol Levy) Order 2022, please advise which entity/entities now have control and distribution of the Alcohol Levies collected under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 that were previously managed by the Health Promotion Agency.
If control and authority of the Levies sit across several entities, please advise each entity’s proportion, purpose and authority for distribution.
Please advise whether such decisions have been made on an interim or permanent basis, and if interim when the permanent decisions will be made.”*

Customs New Zealand (Customs) collects the levy from alcohol produced or imported for sale in Aotearoa New Zealand. The purpose of the levy income is to fund alcohol harm minimisation programmes. The levy amounts to approximately \$11.5 million per year in 2022/23 and in out years (the years beyond the year being worked in the upcoming budget).

With the commencement of the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 on 1 July 2022, there have been several changes regarding the administration of the alcohol levy including the disestablishment of Te Hiringa Hauora (formally the Health Promotion Agency), placing it within the National Public Health Service (part of Te Whatu Ora, Health NZ), and the levy is now paid via Vote Health instead of to Te Hiringa Hauora.

As an interim measure during the initial transition year (the 2022/23 period), the levy income will be allocated across Manatū Hauora and Te Whatu Ora. The allocated portion and function for each entity is:

- 91.52% for Te Whatu Ora to deliver primary, community, public and population health services

- 0.848% for the Ministry to provide public and population health leadership and cover other alcohol-related activities, including Customs collection fee. The Public Health Agency (the PHA) within Manatū Hauora will be leading this work.

A service level agreement (SLA) will be developed between the PHA and Te Whatu Ora and will set out the alcohol harm reduction work programme Te Whatu Ora will undertake in the transitional year. The SLA will include the payment schedule for the levy funding to be transferred from Manatū Hauora to Te Whatu Ora to fund this work and will also outline an agreed monitoring process. It is expected that the Te Whatu Ora work programme will largely be a continuation of the work programme delivered by Te Hiringa Hauora. The SLA will reflect the requirement that the levy is targeted towards the purpose for which it is collected, ie, alcohol harm minimisation.

As part of the transition, a review of the alcohol levy will be undertaken in 2022/23 managed by the PHA in conjunction with the Mental Health and Addiction - Commissioning group and NPHS (Te Whatu Ora). The review will cover the adequacy of the levy to fund ongoing and established programmes, and what resources may be required for any additional alcohol work requested of the PHA. The findings of the review will inform the allocation of the levy funding for the 2023/24 year and the ongoing management of the levy.

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 Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Andrew Old
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Public Health Agency / Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui