

3 April 2023

██████████
By email: ██████████
Ref: H2023021428

Tēnā koe ██████████

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 7 March 2023.
You asked:

“Could I please have the following data if available?:

- *Total number of units of CBD oil sold each month nationally, from NOV 2022 to FEB 2023 inclusive.*
- *Total number of units of THC dominant oil sold each month nationally, from NOV 2022 to FEB 2023 inclusive.*
- *Total number of units of THC flower products sold each month nationally, from NOV 2022 to FEB 2023 inclusive.”*

The tables in the attached Appendix 1 provide the number of packs of unapproved medicines containing cannabis. These medicines have been verified as meeting the minimum quality standard and have been supplied under the exemption provisions in section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981 for the months November 2022 to February 2023 inclusive as requested.

Please note that as the reporting requirements in section 29 of the Medicines Act are ‘as soon as possible in the month after supply’ the number of packs supplied in February were correct at the time the data was pulled but may change as further reporting is received. The information provided relates to products containing either cannabidiol (CBD) only, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) only or CBD plus THC.

When considering these data, it is important to note:

- That the number of packs supplied cannot be used to determine the number of prescriptions or the number of patients or the number of doses.
- Reporting information is supplied retrospectively and therefore the number of packs reported as supplied may change if additional reports are received.
- Sativex has consent for distribution as a medicine, and so the reporting requirements associated with the supply of unapproved medicines in section 29 of the Medicines Act do not apply. The data provided do not include the number of packs of Sativex supplied.

The information supplied under the exemption provisions of section 20 of the Medicines Act is provided directly from importers/manufacturers to Medsafe. Medsafe then records the information provided by the supplier into a database, from which the information provided to you is generated.

When conducting searches in response to requests for information relating to section 29 supply, the information is drawn from the data based on the active ingredient(s) in the product rather than the product name, dosage form or other features.

To provide a breakdown of the information in this way could negatively affect the commercial position of those who supplied it. Therefore, the specific breakdown of information you have requested has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information; and
- Section 9(2)(ba)(i) to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and making it available would likely prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing information 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe

APPENDIX 1

Number of packs of products containing cannabidiol

2022

| Month | Nov | Dec |
|--------------|------|------|
| No. of packs | 4313 | 4338 |

2023

| Month | Jan | Feb |
|--------------|------|------|
| No. of packs | 3844 | 3490 |

Number of Packs of products containing tetrahydrocannabinol

2022

| Month | Nov | Dec |
|--------------|-----|-----|
| No. of packs | 747 | 512 |

2023

| Month | Jan | Feb |
|--------------|-----|-----|
| No. of packs | 507 | - |

Number of Packs of products containing both tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol

2022

| Month | Nov | Dec |
|--------------|------|------|
| No. of packs | 2917 | 3557 |

2023

| Month | Jan | Feb |
|--------------|------|-----|
| No. of packs | 2765 | 369 |