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11 April 2023

[REDACTED]

Ref:

[REDACTED]
H2023021674

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

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 March 2023 for information regarding specialist vape retailers (SVR).

Manatū Hauora has a Specialist Vape Retailer Register. This shows all the approved vaping premises (AVP) and approved internet sites (AIS) that are allowed to operate as a specialist vape retailer in Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as the ones who no longer have a license. The register can be found here: <https://vaping.harp.health.nz/search/1DC97E34-E3F1-40E3-ADFE-30092B36F21C>.

The register provides the physical address of each AVP or the website URL of each AIS, as well as the date the applications were approved. Any applications that are approved will automatically be updated onto this register.

Each part of your request is responded to below. All figures provided are as of 13 March 2023.

How many Specialist Vape Retailer (SVR) applications have been made to the Vaping regulatory Authority in 2023?

In order to operate as a specialist vape retailer in Aotearoa New Zealand, applicants must have one specialist vape retailer application for their business approved and at least one approved vaping premises application which is in relation to a specified retail premises. Additionally, applicants can also submit approved internet site applications for a specified internet site.

In 2023, the Vaping Regulatory Authority have received:

- 68 specialist vape retailer applications
- 81 approved vaping premises applications
- 9 approved internet site applications.

Please note, these figures do not include applications that have not been paid for or have been withdrawn by the applicant.

How many of the above have been approved?

Based on the above applications:

- 23 specialist vape retailer applications have been approved
- 40 approved vaping premises applications have been approved
- 9 approved internet site applications have been approved

It is noted that the remaining applications do not reflect the number of declined applications, as the assessment of many applications received in 2023 are still ongoing.

Furthermore, these figures are solely based on the applications received by the Vaping Regulatory Authority in 2023 and do not reflect the total number of applications that have been approved in 2023.

Can I please have a breakdown to the approved applications by month?

The information you have requested is provided below in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of SVR, AVP, and AIS applications approved in 2023, by month

	Number of SVR applications approved	Number of AVP applications approved	Number of AIS applications approved
January	2	12	3
February	13	18	4
March	8	10	2

Can I please have the region and the city district of the approved locations/ retailers?

Please refer to the Specialist Vape Retailer Register, which outlines the physical address of all approved vaping premises in Aotearoa New Zealand. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

Can I please have the number of approved applications made in the years 2022, 2021 and 2020?

The information you have requested is provided below in Table 2.

Table 2: Number of SVR, AVP, and AIS applications approved, by year

	Number of SVR applications approved	Number of AVP applications approved	Number of AIS applications approved
2021	283	527	104
2022	346	481	27

Note that as retailers could only apply to become a specialist vape retailer from 11 August 2021, there were no applications approved in the year 2020.

For the years above can i please have a regional break down (if possible city & district too)?

Manatū Hauora does not hold information on the number of specialist vape retailers by region. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by Manatū Hauora and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act. Please refer to the Specialist Vape Retailer Register mentioned above, which outlines the physical address of all approved vaping premises in Aotearoa New Zealand.

If possible, can I have a monthly breakdown of approved applications?

The information you have requested is attached to this letter as Appendix 1.

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
Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

Appendix 1: The number of SVR, AVP, and AIS applications approved, by month

	Number of SVR applications approved	Number of AVP applications approved	Number of AIS applications approved
August 2021	20	103	8
September 2021	40	55	12
October 2021	108	134	37
November 2021	90	182	41
December 2021	25	53	6
January 2022	15	24	1
February 2022	16	30	2
March 2022	12	21	5
April 2022	16	24	0
May 2022	12	17	3
June 2022	24	34	2
July 2022	29	38	0
August 2022	26	36	2
September 2022	50	75	5
October 2022	49	55	1
November 2022	53	63	3
December 2022	44	64	4
January 2023	7	21	6
February 2023	17	20	4
March 2023	9	11	2