

13 October 2023

9(2)(a)

By email: 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2023031735

Tēnā koe 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 15 September 2023 for information regarding the number of packs of medicinal cannabis sold monthly. Each part of your request is responded to below.

Total number of packs of medicinal cannabis products containing CBD only sold each month nationally from January 2020 to present (September 2023).

Total number of packs of medicinal cannabis products containing THC only sold each month nationally from January 2020 to present (September 2023).

Total number of packs of medicinal cannabis products containing both THC and CBD sold each month nationally from January 2020 to present (September 2023).

The table attached as Appendix 1 provides the number of packs of medicinal cannabis products that 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 period January 2020 to August 2023. The reporting information is required to be supplied to Medsafe as soon as possible in the month after supply. As your request was received in September, only data for supply up to August 2023 were able to be generated.

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 and Epidyolex have 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 or Epidyolex supplied.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris James', written in a cursive style.

Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe

APPENDIX 1

Number of packs of products containing cannabidiol only

2020

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of packs	1002	1355	1644	1175	1325	1914	1982	1870	2436	1621	2874	2766

2021

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of packs	1891	2445	2774	1972	2656	2403	2537	2799	2952	1468	2362	2446

2022

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of packs	2140	2315	2618	2380	3163	3030	2912	3404	3243	3472	4313	4338

2023

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
No. of packs	3844	4163	5007	4267	5128	5458	5150	6143

Number of Packs of products containing tetrahydrocannabinol only**2020**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of packs	9	-	9	-	10	25	18	-	24	34	47	53

2021

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of packs	26	181	68	158	-	280	189	268	460	297	334	350

2022

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of packs	404	325	373	372	429	396	626	425	158	387	747	512

2023

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun	Jul	Aug
No. of packs	507	609	1380	1100	846	1296	1058

Number of Packs of products containing both tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol

2020

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of packs	33	54	63	101	74	110	117	110	164	234	230	315

2021

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of packs	136	213	132	550	548	668	665	768	632	569	726	1013

2022

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of packs	790	580	1075	1177	1068	911	1830	2586	2179	2478	2917	3557

2023

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
No. of packs	2765	3553	6326	3748	5677	8834	9445	8846