

29 October 2013

Mr James Lohead
<fyi-request-1168-547cffec@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Dear Mr Lohead

Thank you for your email of 27 September 2014, asking about animal testing for psychoactive substances.

No decisions have yet been made as to what safety tests will be required for psychoactive substances. It is important to note that that animal testing is to determine risk before a product is tried in humans, rather than to find out the psychoactive effects. It is also important to remember that animal tests will be carried out only if there is no suitable alternative test, as set out in section 12 of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013.

Information about animal testing is widely available. I recommend starting with the guidelines published by the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use. You can find all their guidelines on the internet at ich.org

The Psychoactive Substances Act gives the Psychoactive Substances Regulatory Authority wide powers to recall products in the event of a safety concern emerging. You can find the Act on the government's legislation website: legislation.govt.nz

In the formal terms of the Official Information Act 1982, I am refusing your request pursuant to section 18 (d) as the information you seek is publicly available. You have the right to ask the Ombudmen to review my response.

Yours sincerely



Dr Donald Hannah
Manager
New Regulators Establishment Unit