

3 April 2020

Felix Lee

By email: [fyi-request-12310-1e3c37bb@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12310-1e3c37bb@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202000871

Dear Mr Felix Lee

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 25 February 2020 for:

*“Regarding sting operations to catch sunbed operators who provide services to underaged persons,*

- 1. Any manual/instructions/guidelines on how the sting operation is to be run, and*
- 2. Any instruction/briefing/notes provided to the underaged person who work in such operations*
- 3. For each of the last three years, how many sting operations were carried out, how many operators were caught, how many were prosecuted, and what was the outcome of each prosecution.”*

The Ministry has identified one document within scope of parts one and two of your request. This document is attached as Appendix 1. Please note that some information has been withheld pursuant to the following sections of the Act:

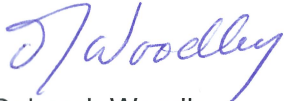
- Section 6(c), as releasing this information would prejudice the maintenance of the law;
- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii), to protect the commercial position of the person who is the subject of this information, or who provided this information.

In response to part three of your request, please note that the sunbed operation was signed off in 2019, therefore no ‘sting’ operation dates back further than this. Since 2019, 22 operators were checked, two of which were alleged to have breached the ban, and one was successfully prosecuted.

I trust that 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.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry of Health website.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Woodley  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Population Health and Prevention**