

17 September 2020

Treat you better Limited

By email: fyi-request-13562-52a76731@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202006406

Dear Treat you better Limited

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 21 August 2020 for:

- *“...Request 1
Could you please provide information you hold in relation to:
- total number of CBD prescriptions that have been issued (up to last 5 years)
broken down by month
- total number of CBD prescriptions that have been filled/dispensed (up to last 5
years) broken down by month*
- *Request 2
Could you please also provide in your response:
- a breakdown by geography of prescriptions issued and dispensed
- clarification on whether repeat prescriptions would be included in the above
figures, in which case is it also possible to provide a summary of the total
instances of CBD product prescribed and dispensed broken down by geography
and calendar year?...”*

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is unable to provide the information you have requested across your two requests.

There is one medicine containing CBD (and THC) that has been granted consent for sale, supply, distribution and advertising by the Minister of Health, or his/her delegate under section 20 of the Medicines Act 1981. This medicine is not currently funded by PHARMAC and so information on prescribing and supply is not reported to the Ministry. As this information is not held by the Ministry, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

Other medicines containing CBD that have been prescribed, have been supplied under the exemption provisions in section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981. Information on prescription numbers, patient names and doctor names and locations is not required to be supplied to Medsafe, though it must be held by the supplier and available to Medsafe if needed. Where not held, this information is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

In some instances, this information has been supplied to Medsafe, but this cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. This information is refused under section 18(f) of the Act. Further to this, please note that the information requested would also need to be withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, as making this available would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is subject to the information.

However, Medsafe does hold data on the number of packs of products, containing only cannabidiol, that have been reported to Medsafe as having been supplied under the exemption provisions in section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981. The information held is supplied as Appendix one. Please note that the number of packs does not represent either the number of patients supplied, the number of doses of cannabidiol, or the number of prescriptions written and dispensed. Pack sizes vary and patients may be prescribed more than one product (or strength, or dose form) and obtain more than one prescription in any one month. As reporting is retrospective (i.e. in the month following supply), the data supplied may change.

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 Medsafe website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris James', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe