

10 January 2021

Morgan Varaine

By email: fyi-request-16716-288de253@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202112194

Dear Morgan

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 12 September 2021 for:

*“Documents that relate to the classification of Artemisia Annua since 1 July 2017
Copies of all submissions and objections regarding the classification of Artemisia Annua
Medsafe’s assessment of all submissions and objections regarding the classification of
Artemisia Annua.”*

Several sets of compiled documents have been found within scope of your request. These documents are outlined in Appendix 1 of this letter with copies enclosed. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, please note I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Agendas and minutes from Medicines Classification Meetings relevant to your request can also be found at the following links:

- www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/class/Agendas/Agen63/agen63.htm.
- www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/class/CommentsOnSubmissionAgen63.htm.
- www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/class/Minutes/2016-2020/mccMin10Oct2019.htm.
- www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/class/Minutes/2016-2020/mccMin09July2020.htm.

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 Ministry of Health website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases.

Yours sincerely



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	13 November 2019	Letter of Objection	Released with some information withheld under the following sections of the act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons, and, • 9(2)(g)(ii), to protect Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.
2	5 February 2020	Medsafe response to Letter of Objection 5 Feb	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
3	17 December 2019	Letter of objection	
4	7 February 2020	Response to objection about recommendations made by the Med 7 Dec 20	
5	5 February 2020	Medsafe Response to letter of objection	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
6	12 February 2020	Medsafe response to email of 7 Feb 20	
7	19 August 2019	Objection to Proposal to classify Artemisia Annua as a prescription medicine	Released in full.
8	5 February 2020	Medsafe response to Objection 5 Feb 19	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
9	-	NSP Proposed Classification of Artemisia annua as a prescription medicine	Released in full.
10	17 December 2019	Letter opposing the classification of AA	Released with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9(2)(a) and, • Section 9(2)(g)(ii) and, • Section 9(2)(b)(ii), where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
			the person who supplied the information.
11	5 February 2020	Medsafe response to Objection 5 Feb 20	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
12	21 January 2020	Email to members to clarify the substance classified - Artemisia annua extract 21.01.2020	Released with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act.
13	2 March 2020	Letter to NZ Artemisia scheduling - 02.03.2020	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
14	31 July 2020	Letter to NZAMH on reclassification of Artemisia annua extract	
15	20 January 2019	Signed memo to delegate summarising objections	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act, and deemed out of scope of the request.