

5 June 2024

M Williams

Via email: fyi-request-26968-85b73247@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe M Williams

Request for information: Oestradiol supply matters

Thank you for your request dated 24 May 2024 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information relating to Oestradiol (Estradot) products. You requested:

- 1. All correspondence relating to the Pharmac's management of the supply issue for Oestradiol (Estradot) patches, Oestradiol gel and other products. Including correspondence to Pharmacists, wholesalers, distributors, hospital pharmacists, Ministry of Health, Public Health Agency, Consumers and Advocacy Groups, PHO's and primary care organisations and other interested parties (From 2022 onwards)*
- 2. Correspondence and documents that relate to Pharmac's most recent decision to Request for Proposals for supply of transdermal oestradiol products. Please include documentation regarding the announced Tender process and current status (From 2022 onwards).*
- 3. Internal Policies and/or guidance relating to the management and access to Oestradiol (Estradot) patches, Oestradiol gel and other products.*
- 4. Correspondence and documentation that evidence Pharmac have considered the following in their management of the supply issue for Oestradiol (Estradot) patches, Oestradiol gel and other products - Impact on the wellbeing of people who are unable to receive the treatment they need, alignment with Pharmac's Achieving access equity, Human Rights considerations i.e. discrimination on the grounds of Gender and Disability, number of complaints received about the supply issue/Pharmac's management of the issue*
- 5. budget assigned to resolving the supply issue of Oestradiol (Estradot) patches, Oestradiol gel and other products.*

As it stands, your request for information relating to Oestradiol (Estradot) products is very broad. An initial search of the term 'Oestradiol' in our document management system returned over 3000 results, which does not include all potential emails or correspondence.

To identify information relevant to your request would require collating and assessing thousands of documents.

A significant portion of these are likely to be emails, which also require individual assessment of each piece of correspondence to discern its contents.

This would place an unreasonable degree of strain on the team responsible and would interfere with the day-to-day workings of Pharmac. I am therefore refusing your request in

full, in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA, as the requested information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

However, we hope the below information will be helpful, which includes some general information and links to publicly available resources. For clarity, I have set out this information below in response to the relevant questions.

1. All correspondence relating to the Pharmac's management of the supply issue for Oestradiol (Estradot) patches, Oestradiol gel and other products. Including correspondence to Pharmacists, wholesalers, distributors, hospital pharmacists, Ministry of Health, Public Health Agency, Consumers and Advocacy Groups, PHO's and primary care organisations and other interested parties (From 2022 onwards)

Pharmac provides regular updates on the global supply issue affecting oestradiol patches, here: <https://pharmac.govt.nz/medicine-funding-and-supply/medicine-notice/oestradiol>

We encourage you to check this page from time to time as it is regularly updated with new information on the global supply issue.

2. Correspondence and documents that relate to Pharmac's most recent decision to Request for Proposals for supply of transdermal oestradiol products. Please include documentation regarding the announced Tender process and current status (From 2022 onwards).

I can advise that the tender process is ongoing, and no decisions have been made. While I cannot provide more information on the tender process, you may be interested in the following resources published on the Pharmac website:

- Oestradiol gel Future procurement opportunity information - <https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/news/2023-08-15-pharmac-indicates-interest-to-fund-more-oestradiol-treatments-to-relieve-supply-issue>
- Oestradiol RFP information - <https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/news/media-release-pharmac-seeking-bids-from-suppliers-to-fund-another-type-of-hormone-replacement-therapy> and <https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations-and-decisions/rfp-supply-of-oestradiol-gel>
- Information on the 2023/24 Invitation to Tender - <https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations-and-decisions/tender-2023-10-31-itt>
- Information on Pharmac's Tender process - <https://pharmac.govt.nz/medicine-funding-and-supply/the-funding-process/the-annual-tender>

3. Internal Policies and/or guidance relating to the management and access to Oestradiol (Estradot) patches, Oestradiol gel and other products.

Pharmac has published some general information on supply management, here: <https://pharmac.govt.nz/medicine-funding-and-supply/medicine-supply-management/managing-medicine-supply>

You can also find more information on Pharmac's interest in funding more oestradiol treatments here: <https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/news/2023-08-15-pharmac-indicates-interest-to-fund-more-oestradiol-treatments-to-relieve-supply-issue>

4. Correspondence and documentation that evidence Pharmac have considered the following in their management of the supply issue for Oestradiol (Estradot) patches, Oestradiol gel and other products - Impact on the wellbeing of people who are unable to receive the treatment they need, alignment with Pharmac's Achieving access equity, Human Rights considerations i.e. discrimination on the grounds of Gender and Disability, number of complaints received about the supply issue/Pharmac's management of the issue

Pharmac has received and published the following advice on the global oestradiol patch supply issue, impact and potential alternatives:

- <https://pharmac.govt.nz/assets/2023-05-Endocrinology-Advisory-Committee-clinical-advice-summary-Final.pdf>
- <https://pharmac.govt.nz/assets/2023-05-Reproductive-and-Sexual-Health-Advisory-Committee-clinical-advice-summary-final.pdf>

5. budget assigned to resolving the supply issue of Oestradiol (Estradot) patches, Oestradiol gel and other products.

There is no specific staff resource allocated to oestradiol patches, and will be met from baseline operational funding

Please note, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about our response to your OIA, under section 28(3) of the OIA. Details of [how to make a complaint](#) are on the Ombudsman's website.

To make information more freely available, we publish selected OIA responses (excluding personal details) on our website. Please get in touch with us if you have any questions about this.

Nāku noa, nā



Oliver Whitehead
Team Leader, Government Services