

23 NOV 2015

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Mark Hannah  
Email: [fyi-request-3278-c19113ce@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-3278-c19113ce@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: H201505088

Dear Mark

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 23 October 2015 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

*Any correspondence about acupuncture or other alternative modalities between ACC and Dr David St George, since he took up the position of the Ministry of Health's Chief Advisor of Integrative Health.*

The information relating to this request is itemised in the table below, with copies of documents attached.

I have decided to withhold certain information within these documents under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. I have also withheld certain information within the documents under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

Two journal articles are mentioned in the correspondence. These are:

Ernst E, Lee MS, Choi TY. Acupuncture: does it alleviate pain and are there serious risks? A review of reviews. *Pain* 2011 April; 152(4): 755-764.

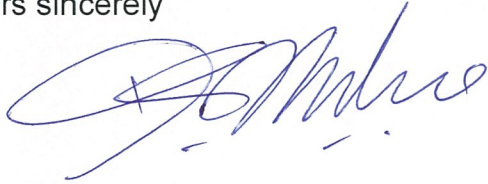
Bovey M. A response to Ernst et al.'s 2011 overview of acupuncture-pain systematic reviews. *J Chin Med* 2011 June; 96: 18-21.

These articles are subject to copyright and are available through a subscription, a single-issue purchase or library services.

Request	Response
<i>Any correspondence about acupuncture or other alternative modalities between ACC and Dr David St George, since he took up the position of the Ministry of Health's Chief Advisor of Integrative Health.</i>	Attached are six email chains. The dates of the first email in each of the chains are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 24 February 2010</li><li>2. 6 August 2010</li><li>3. 16 June 2011</li><li>4. 19 July 2011</li><li>5. 15 May 2013</li><li>6. 13 August 2015</li></ol>

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold information under this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Don Mackie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Don Mackie  
**Chief Medical Officer**  
**Clinical Leadership, Protection & Regulation**