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20 April 2026

David Robinson

By email: [fyi-request-34400-d934db6a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34400-d934db6a@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2026081056

Tēnā koe David

### **Partial transfer of your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health - Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 6 April 2026. You requested:

*“- Provide information on Ministry, and Health New Zealand's guidance to organisations to ensure that these medicines were known not to be counterfeit, expired, perished, nor have any other issues with them.*

*- Provide information on how many medicines were imported where the original package writing wasn't in English, which languages they were in, and what steps Ministry took to ensure the provenance of the medicines.*

*- What briefings did Ministry and Health New Zealand, receive about the supply chain issue, and that there were potential issues with the supply chain.*

*- For the large numbers of suspicious and unapproved medicines used across New Zealand, outline the steps that Ministry and Health New Zealand took to ensure that health managers were aware of this issue, and that clinicians knew about their obligation to obtain consent and to provide open disclosure.*

*- Provide information on the number of incidents submitted to health incident managements systems, in both Health New Zealand hospitals, air and road ambulance, primary care and private hospitals, and what steps were taken to communicate about this with health providers.*

*- Describe the number of deaths that were reported in association with suspicious or unapproved medicines in New Zealand, since 2020, and where possible, provide an estimate of how many deaths, and SAC1-4 incidents, may have been associated with these, and what steps have been taken to investigate these.*

*- Where deaths occurred in association with suspicious or unapproved medicines during this time period, what was the interval between these being reported to Ministry and*

*Health New Zealand, and being reported to the coroner. What was the interval in them being reported to the coroner. What was the interval in them being reported to police.*

*- Where the deaths were already known to be unnatural (such as suicides or homicides), and suspicious or unapproved medicines were used, what was the average interval between being notified about these concerns, and notifying the coroner, police, courts, prosecutors, and defendants?*

*- Where intermediaries are known to have facilitated the importing and distribution of suspicious or unknown medicines in New Zealand, what steps were taken to investigate them and what actions were taken to prevent further harm, particularly in the context of the current global supply shock.*

*- Did any particular organisations use suspicious or unapproved medicines more than any others, and if so, has Ministry or Health New Zealand, taken any steps to ascertain what the reasons for this were, and to prevent any further harm?"*

Your request asks for information which is held by Pharmac, the Ministry of Justice and Health New Zealand. For this reason, I have decided to transfer the below parts of your request to these agencies under section 14(b)(i) of the Act. You can expect a response from these agencies in due course.

*"- Provide information on how many medicines were imported where the original package writing wasn't in English, which languages they were in, and what steps Ministry took to ensure the provenance of the medicines."*

This part of your request is being transferred to Pharmac. Their contact email is [enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz).

*"- Describe the number of deaths that were reported in association with suspicious or unapproved medicines in New Zealand, since 2020, and where possible, provide an estimate of how many deaths, and SAC1-4 incidents, may have been associated with these, and what steps have been taken to investigate these.*

*- Where deaths occurred in association with suspicious or unapproved medicines during this time period, what was the interval between these being reported to Ministry and Health New Zealand, and being reported to the coroner. What was the interval in them being reported to the coroner. What was the interval in them being reported to police.*

*- Where the deaths were already known to be unnatural (such as suicides or homicides), and suspicious or unapproved medicines were used, what was the average interval between being notified about these concerns, and notifying the coroner, police, courts, prosecutors, and defendants?"*

These parts of your request are being transferred to the Ministry of Justice. Their contact email is [OIA@justice.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@justice.govt.nz).

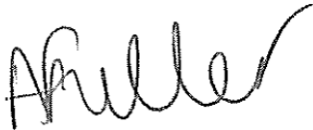
*"- For the large numbers of suspicious and unapproved medicines used across New Zealand, outline the steps that Ministry and Health New Zealand took to ensure that health managers were aware of this issue, and that clinicians knew about their obligation to obtain consent and to provide open disclosure."*

This part of your request is being transferred to Health New Zealand. Their contact email is [h.nzOIA@tewhatauora.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@tewhatauora.govt.nz).

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz).

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, na

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Fuller', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alex Fuller  
**Acting Manager, OIA Services**  
**Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga**

## COPY OF OIA REQUEST

**From:** David Robinson <[fyi-request-34400-d934db6a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34400-d934db6a@requests.fyi.org.nz)>;  
**Received:** Mon Apr 06 2026 21:24:18 GMT+1200 (New Zealand Standard Time)  
**To:** OIA Requests <[oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz)>; OIA <[oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz)>;  
**Subject:** Official Information request - Suspicious Medicine Usage

Dear Ministry of Health,

Between 2020 and present day, New Zealand's medicines supply has been seriously impacted by a range of events. These include changing global markets and COVID. Most recently, the fuel supply shock threatens both the manufacture of medicines as well as their transport.

Given the widespread dependence on unapproved medicines since this time:

- Provide information on Ministry, and Health New Zealand's guidance to organisations to ensure that these medicines were known not to be counterfeit, expired, perished, nor have any other issues with them.
- Provide information on how many medicines were imported where the original package writing wasn't in English, which languages they were in, and what steps Ministry took to ensure the provenance of the medicines.
- What briefings did Ministry and Health New Zealand, receive about the supply chain issue, and that there were potential issues with the supply chain.
- For the large numbers of suspicious and unapproved medicines used across New Zealand, outline the steps that Ministry and Health New Zealand took to ensure that health managers were aware of this issue, and that clinicians knew about their obligation to obtain consent and to provide open disclosure.
- Provide information on the number of incidents submitted to health incident managements systems, in both Health New Zealand hospitals, air and road ambulance, primary care and private hospitals, and what steps were taken to communicate about this with health providers.
- Describe the number of deaths that were reported in association with suspicious or unapproved medicines in New Zealand, since 2020, and where possible, provide an estimate of how many deaths, and SAC1-4 incidents, may have been associated with these, and what steps have been taken to investigate these.
- Where deaths occurred in association with suspicious or unapproved medicines during this time period, what was the interval between these being reported to Ministry and Health New Zealand, and being reported to the coroner. What was the interval in them being reported to the coroner. What was the interval in them being reported to police.
- Where the deaths were already known to be unnatural (such as suicides or homicides), and suspicious or unapproved medicines were used, what was the average interval between being notified about these concerns, and notifying the coroner, police, courts, prosecutors, and defendants?
- Where intermediaries are known to have facilitated the importing and distribution of suspicious or unknown medicines in New Zealand, what steps were taken to investigate them and what actions were taken to prevent further harm, particularly in the context of the current global supply shock.

- Did any particular organisations use suspicious or unapproved medicines more than any others, and if so, has Ministry of Health New Zealand, taken any steps to ascertain what the reasons for this were, and to prevent any further harm?

Yours faithfully,

David Robinson