

17 AUG 2016

Kyle Sutherland
Fyi-request-4371-ea25c70b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Kyle Sutherland

Official Information Act Request: New Zealand Illegal Drug Harm Index 2016

Thank you for your email dated 4 August 2016 (Ministry of Health reference H201603160) in which you requested information, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), relating to why the New Zealand Illegal Drug Harm Index 2016 (the DHI) does not include alcohol.

Alcohol is considered a drug. It is within the scope of New Zealand's National Drug Policy 2015 to 2020 which aims to minimise alcohol (and other drug) related harm and to promote and protect health and well-being. This policy is overseen by the Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs, and the Ministry of Health is the lead agency.

Alcohol is not within the scope of the DHI because of its status as a legal drug.

The DHI was created to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the costs of harmful illicit drug use. It replaced the 2008 version that focused on law enforcement and the cost of interventions for illegal drugs.

The revised DHI gives greater attention to health-related harms.

The methodology used in the DHI can be applied to legal drugs. Researchers could apply it to alcohol or tobacco, for instance.

I trust this information fulfils your request.

Yours sincerely



Jill Lane
Director
Services Commissioning