

25 November 2016

Alec
The Lawyer
fyi-request-4859-2b9a47ce@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201604323

Dear Alec

Thank you for your email of 28 October 2016 containing the following information request:

Please supply copies of any and all correspondence, meeting notes, or other such records that can confirm that the MoH did notify HNZ that the meth testing guidelines were being misused.

The Ministry does not hold any information that is in the scope of your request.

However, please note that the Ministry of Health did contact a media outlet requesting they correct an incorrect claim made in news articles (based on a radio interview with a Ministry of Health official) that the Ministry of Health official had said Housing New Zealand Corporation was misusing methamphetamine guidelines.

You can listen to the accompanying audio of the interview, which confirms that no such statement was made by Ministry officials.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/201821439/health-ministry-says-housing-nz-misusing-meth-guidelines>

Please also see attached below a copy of a media statement provided by the Ministry of Health to Radio New Zealand and other organisations, about the issue.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision on this request.

Yours sincerely



Dr Stewart Jessamine
Director
Protection, Regulation and Assurance

From: Peter Abernethy/MOH
To: Benedict Collins <Benedict.collins@radionz.co.nz>
Date: 28/10/2016 01:01 p.m.
Subject: Re: meth testing

Hi Benedict,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Please attribute any comments to Director Protection, Regulation and Assurance Dr Stewart Jessamine, regards Peter Abernethy 021 366 111

The Ministry's 2010 Guidelines are called: 'Guidelines for the Remediation of Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory Sites'. Within the Guidelines it says they cover two specific areas of methamphetamine 'clean-up' – removal and remediation (p2).

Ministry of Health staff have met with Housing New Zealand staff on a number of occasions since these guidelines were developed and underpinning those conversations has always been the Ministry's view that the Ministry's guidelines only cover clandestine laboratories and this has been routinely pointed out.

The Ministry does not have any formal communications or notes related to these meetings that it is aware of. The Ministry is aware that Housing New Zealand states that it was not officially advised by the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health believes there is little to be gained now from further review of what is now passed.

The Ministry accepts that until the latest recommendations in the ESR report released this week, there has been no official New Zealand guidance on clean up related solely to methamphetamine use.

The Ministry of Health works collaboratively and cooperatively with Housing New Zealand and that will continue.

2010 Guidelines: <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/guidelines-remediation-clandestine-meth-lab-sites.pdf>