



Ref: AFS 17/241

31 January 2017

David Johnston  
Fyi.org

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Dear Mr Johnston

**Re: Official Information Act Request re Cannabis**

I refer to your Official Information Act request received via email on 10 January 2017 in relation to Cannabis.

In your email you wrote, "In a letter dated 20 July 2016, ref 16/4631, Detective Superintendent Tim Anderson says that police estimate that the 132,356 cannabis plants destroyed had a potential social harm of \$1,052,485,000."

As a result of that response you asked the following:

1. What is the police estimate of potential social good of this cannabis?

Police do not undertake independent research on the harm or benefits of cannabis. The estimates of potential social harm are based on independent research which is freely available on the internet. Police do not hold information on any social benefits of using cannabis.

Therefore this request is refused pursuant to Section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information does not exist.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



T Anderson  
Detective Superintendent  
National Manager  
National Criminal Investigations Group