

23 May 2018

Jason McIntosh  
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Ref: H201803219

### Response to your request for official information

Dear Mr McIntosh

Thank you for your email received on 25 April 2018. You have said:

*As the govt entity that makes decisions (presumably) to improve or enhance the health of NZ Citizens, I have two questions involving our drug laws ...  
Isn't it true that marijuana was originally classified as an illegal drug to protect the interests of corporations ie: plastics, petroleum, forestry and pharmaceutical industries?  
Now that the world wide 'weed kills' media scare mongering has finally died down and some of the true health benefits are coming to light , who is your ministry pandering to by not recommending its removal from the controlled substances act?  
As seen in overseas studies , when drugs are made legal and therefore monitored by govts ,it has greatly improved life for people struggling with addiction , destroyed the black market profits made by organised crime and taken away the mystery and intrigue that attracts youth curious to experiment with drugs for the first time . Why doesn't the ministry of health push for an end to the unwinnable War on Drugs?*

The Ministry views on Medicinal Cannabis can be found on the Ministry of Health's website:  
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/medicines-control/medicinal-cannabis>

Yours sincerely



Nick Allan  
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