

[REDACTED]
By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H2023033580

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 7 December 2023 for:

“The number of packs of medicinal cannabis that were prescribed in September and October please.”

Neither Medsafe nor the Ministry of Health hold information on the number of packs of medicinal cannabis that have been prescribed. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

Appended to this letter is the number of packs of medicinal cannabis products that have been verified as meeting the minimum quality standard and have been supplied under the exemption provisions in section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981 for September and October 2023. The information provided relates to products containing either cannabidiol (CBD) only, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) only, or CBD plus THC.

The information supplied, as per the exemption provisions of section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981 is provided directly from importers/manufacturers to Medsafe. Medsafe then records the information provided by the supplier into a database, from which the information provided to you is generated. As this information is provided to Medsafe following supply of the medicine, the number of packs supplied is accurate as per the data supplied at the time this response was generated.

When considering these data, it is important to note:

- That the number of packs supplied cannot be used to determine the number of prescriptions or the number of patients or the number of doses
- Reporting information is supplied retrospectively and therefore the number of packs reported as supplied may change if additional reports are received.
- Sativex and Epidyolex have consent for distribution as a medicine, and so the reporting requirements associated with the supply of unapproved medicines in section 29 of the Medicines Act do not apply. The data provided do not include the number of packs of Sativex or Epidyolex supplied.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe

Appendix 1

Number of packs of products containing cannabidiol only

2023

Month	September	October
Number of packs	5710	5147

Number of Packs of products containing tetrahydrocannabinol only

2023

Month	September	October
Number of packs	618	1445

Number of Packs of products containing both tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol

2023

Month	September	October
Number of packs	9804	6317

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982