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31 July 2024

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H2024045570

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

### Partial response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 3 July 2024 for information regarding the Ministry's evidence brief on puberty blockers. You requested:

- *Any information relating to the release of the Ministry's 'evidence brief' on puberty blockers since April 18, 2024.*
- *Any communications between the Ministry and any government ministers relating to the release of the evidence brief over the same time.*
- *Any information related to the delay in releasing the evidence brief*
- *Any information used to compile the "position statement" that will accompany the evidence brief.*

At this stage, matters related to the evidence brief are under active consideration. Consequently, we are withholding copies of the documents pertaining to the evidence brief, including briefings to Ministers and the Ministry's position statement. These are also being withheld in the identified correspondence above under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Health has a proactive release policy and also follows Cabinet processes specified in Cabinet Office circular CO (18) 4. These processes will continue to apply once the period of active consideration has concluded.

We do note that there are emails relevant to your query which we are able to release following appropriate consultation. To enable that consultation to occur, we are proposing to extend the period of time to release this information pursuant to section 15A(1)(b) of the Act. The Ministry endeavours to release this information to you on or before 28 August 2024.

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](mailto: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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Waldegrave', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Steve Waldegrave  
**Acting Deputy Director-General**  
**Strategy, Policy and Legislation | Te Pou Rautaki**