

8 July 2019

C Montague
fyi-request-10499-f9b452c9@requests.fyi.org.nz

To C Montague

This letter is in response to your Official Information Act (OIA) request to the Health Promotion Agency/Te Hiringa Hauora (HPA) on 10 June 2019. Your request stated:

- 1. I noticed on your website alcohol.org.nz you have a quiz that asks people whether they are male or female in order to assess whether their drinking habits are risky. I was wondering why your agency makes a distinction between male and female, in this case and in many other health promotion campaigns. Could you please refer me to any evidence your agency holds that suggests male people are in any way different to female people?*

People taking the quiz are asked to self-select as male or female because a person's biological sex can influence the way their body reacts to alcohol. Evidence can be found on alcohol.org.nz in the sections on [Men & women](#) and [What happens when you drink alcohol?](#)

- 2. How does your agency define 'male' and 'female'?*

The Health Promotion Agency (HPA) does not define male or female. People self-select male or female.

- 3. Is there any evidence of medical or biological differences between male people and female people that your office is aware of?*

See answer to question 1 above.

- 4. May I please see copies of any correspondence from 1 January 2018 which refer to 'sex self-declaration', the Births Deaths and Marriages Act/Bill, and or 'self-identification' of biological sex impacting the Health Promotion Agency's work?*
- 5. In particular, may I please see any correspondence between District Health Boards and the Health Promotion Agency that address any of these topics?*

No such correspondence exists therefore the final two questions are declined Section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cath Edmondson', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Cath Edmondson
General Manager, Policy, Research and Advice