

24 January 2020

Ms Belinda Hodson

Via Email: fyi-request-12045-66eed2e1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Belinda

YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: HYPOTHYROID MEDICATIONS

Thank you for your email of 17 January 2020 in which you asked for:

'...copies of Pharmaceutical Therapeutic Advisory Committee (PTAC) and PTAC endocrine subcommittee minutes that recommend the approval of the currently funded hypothyroid medications'.

Levothyroxine is indicated for hypothyroidism. PHARMAC funds several brands of this medication, including 25mcg, 50mcg and 100mcg Synthroid, 50mcg and 100mcg Mercury Pharma, and 50mcg and 100mcg Eltroxin.

Levothyroxine was discussed at the Endocrinology Subcommittee meeting held on 29 May 2012. The minutes are available at the following url: www.pharmac.govt.nz/assets/ptac-endocrinology-subcommittee-minutes-2012-05-29.pdf

Your request for this information was considered pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Some information was redacted from the minutes under sections 9(2)(i) and 9(2)(j), to:

- enable PHARMAC to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (section 9(2)(i));
- enable PHARMAC to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations, including commercial negotiations (section 9(2)(j)); and

Under the Act, we are also required to consider if the withholding of this information was outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make this information available. In this case we did not consider that the public interest outweighed the reasons for withholding the information.

Please note you have the right, by way of complaint to an Ombudsman, to seek an investigation and review of our decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

We trust that this information answers your query.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Read
Manager, Policy