

Mr Matthew Coley

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Dear Mr Coley

**Your request for Official Information (Ref H201401865)**

Thank you for your request for Information which was received on 12 May 2014. You asked

How many admissions to hospitals nation-wide have been attributed directly to the use of Synthetic Cannabis? This for financial years 2011, 2012 and 2013 ended 31st of March 2014.

I can advise that the Ministry has not received any information directly from District Health Boards relating to your request.

I apologise for the lateness of the response.

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I am refusing your request pursuant to section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). The Ministry does not have these statistics as DHBs do not have a specific category which includes psychoactive substances. Emergency Department presentations would not help as their records note only symptoms, not suspected or validated causes.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision on this request. You can find information on the website of the Office of the Ombudsman ([www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)), or contact the Office on freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Dr Don Mackie  
**Chief Medical Officer**  
**Clinical Leadership, Protection & Regulation**