8 November 2021

Micky Turner
Via email: fyi-request-17158-69d20c1a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Micky

Request for information: Information about the decision to fund molnupiravir for COVID-19

Thank you for your request dated 12 October 2021 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information relating to molnupiravir. You requested:

> *In regards to Molnupiravir…:*
>
> 1. *All written communication between Pharmac and Merck*
> 2. *All trial and study information Pharmac used to inform your decision to fund the drug*
> 3. *All written communication with any people who have extensively studied the active ingredient in EIDD-2801 and believe it could be mutagenic*

All written communication between Pharmac and Merck

We need more time to consult about the release of the communications requested. As required under the OIA, we are giving notice that we need to extend the time limit for responding to this portion of your request. We have extended the time limit for your request by a further 20 working days, to **8 December 2021**.

We have extended the time limit for your request as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA).

All trial and study information Pharmac used to inform your decision to fund the drug

We have not yet decided to fund molnupiravir. We have entered into an advanced purchase agreement with the supplier of molnupiravir however, our agreement is subject to molnupiravir being approved by Medsafe for use in New Zealand. This means molnupiravir will not be made available for treating mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms until it has gained regulatory approval from Medsafe.

As outlined above, we need more time to consult about the release of the trial and study information used to inform our decision to enter into an advanced purchase agreement with the supplier of molnupiravir.

All written communication with any people who have extensively studied the active ingredient in EIDD-2801 and believe it could be mutagenic

We have not had any communications with any people who have extensively studied the active ingredient in EIDD-2801 and believe it could be mutagenic. Therefore, we have refused this portion of your request on the basis that the information requested is not held by

Pharmac (section 18(g) of the OIA) and we have no reason to believe the information is held by, or more closely connected with the functions of, another agency.

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

We are making our information more freely available, so we now publish selected OIA responses (excluding personal details) on our website. Please get in touch with us if you have any questions about this.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Read
Manager, Policy and Government Services