

24 November 2021

Cody C

By email: [fyi-request-17407-8355ea7e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17407-8355ea7e@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202115274

Dear Cody

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 31 October 2021 for information relating to Subcutaneous Immunotherapy (SCIT). You specifically requested:

*“What is the number of people receiving subcutaneous immunotherapy (SCIT) under s29 or similar of the Medicines Act?”*

*I understand this must be notified to the Director-General. An example of the medication in question is Clustek Max.”*

This request is refused in full under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial manual research and collation. There is no time frame to your request and the Medicines Act 1981 came into force forty years ago. This information is not required to be supplied to Medsafe and held by Medsafe, though it must be held by the supplier and available to Medsafe if needed. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act on the grounds that the information sought is not held by the Medsafe.

There are a number of these SCIT products that have consent as medicines, and information on the supply of these products is not held by Medsafe.

Under section 13 of the Act, Medsafe is providing some information that may be of assistance. From the reports received at Medsafe relating to supply under the exemption provisions in section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981, I can advise that to date this year, reports indicate that over 3000 packs have been supplied to patients, within seven product ranges. Please note that the number of packs cannot be related to the number of patients receiving treatment, nor the number of prescriptions written. Please note also, that as per your request, information on products for initial and maintenance therapy only has been supplied. Products supplied for diagnostic testing have not been included.

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.

Yours sincerely



Chris James  
**Group Manager**  
**Medsafe**