

133 Molesworth Street  
PO Box 5013  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand  
T+64 4 496 2000

Rohan Lloyd

By email: [fyi-request-24946-37c0bbab@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24946-37c0bbab@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2024035145

Tēnā koe Rohan

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

Thank you for your follow up request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health - Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 23 January 2024 for information regarding your previous request (ref H2023033269). You asked:

*"I would like to clarify that my request was not asking for the number of "approved applications", but the number of "applications" to be an "Approved Smoked Tobacco Retailer" i.e. the number of applications received as per:*

*<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/smoked-tobacco-products/information-retailers-smoked-tobacco/approved-smoked-tobacco-retailer-application-process>*

*<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/smoked-tobacco-products/information-retailers-smoked-tobacco/approved-smoked-tobacco-retailer-application-process>*"

The Ministry of Health received 1,373 applications via the Tobacco Regulatory Authority between 21 September 2023, when the applications opened, and 1 December 2023 when applications to the Approved Smoked Tobacco Retail scheme were suspended. Please note, 186 of the 1,373 applications were later withdrawn by the applicants.

It is also important to note that the application process to become an approved retailer was in 2 parts. Not all 1,373 applicants completed both parts and paid the application fee.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz).

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.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Old', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrew Old  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui**