

Hon Casey Costello

Minister of Customs
Minister for Seniors
Associate Minister of Health
Associate Minister of Immigration
Associate Minister of Police



06 MAR 2024

Merav Banaia

By email: fyi-request-25598-0c2b7b29@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: CCHOIA-031

Dear Merav

Response to your request for official information

I acknowledge your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 2 February 2024 for:

"Who wrote or collated this ministerial document that said "freeze the excise rates on smoked tobacco" that she gave to health officials and she refers to in her answer to the oral question"

This matter has already been addressed in my responses to Written and Oral Parliamentary Questions. Please refer to the following links for the relevant transcripts:

- WPQ 405 (2024): www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_00405_2024/405-2024-hon-dr-ayesha-verrall-to-the-associate-ministera
- OPQ Question 9: www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/document/HansS_20240130_051840000/9-question-no-9-health

On 20 February 2024, I had also provided a personal explanation regarding my responses to OPQ Question 9 from 30 January 2024, referenced above:

www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/document/HansS_20240220_050520000/costello-casey-hipkins-chris.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Casey Costello', written over a horizontal line.

Hon Casey Costello
Associate Minister of Health