



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

27 January 2025

P Robins

By email: fyi-request-29064-7ab0bec6@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2024055390

Tēnā koe P Robins

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 5 November 2024 for information regarding your previous OIA request (H2024053059 refers).

Pursuant to section 15A(1)(a) of the Act, you were advised on 23 December 2024 that the Ministry needed additional time to process the information captured within scope of your request. I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused and thank you for your patience while the Ministry compiled the documents relevant to your request.

Please find a response to each part of your request below.

Please provide all communications via any electronic media (including but not limited to text messages, emails, and messages on apps such as WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, Teams, and Slack) concerning the media statement issued to 1News about heated tobacco products on Monday, November 4.

This should encompass communications within the Ministry and those involving the Minister's office and Ministry-employed staff within that office.

The information you have requested is attached to this letter as Documents 1 to 4. Please refer to Appendix 1 for further information on my decisions on release. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

I request all communications in any form related to OIA response reference H2024053059 within the Ministry and between the Ministry and anyone else including ministerial offices. This includes the content and response to the release of the information.

The information you have requested is attached to this letter as Document 5.

Additionally, I request any communications (using the definition in the first stanza) between the Minister and the Director-General on this matter from November 1, 2024, to the present date.

One text message and one email correspondence between the Director-General of Health, Dr Diana Sarfati and Associate Minister of Health, Hon Casey Costello have been identified within scope of this part of your request. Please refer to Documents 6 and 7.

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.

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.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Turner
Deputy Director-General
Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	4 – 5 November 2024	Email correspondence regarding the media response on 4 November 2024	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
2	4 November 2024	Text messages between Sarah Turner, Deputy Director-General Government and Executive Services, and Stasha Mason, Manager Statutory Appointments and Integrity Services	Released with some information deemed out of scope of your request.
3	4 – 5 November 2024	Text messages between Sarah Turner, Deputy Director-General Government and Executive Services, and Dr Andrew Old, Deputy Director-General Public Health Agency	Released in full.
4	5 November 2024	Text messages between Sarah Turner, Deputy Director-General Government and Executive Services, and Martin Kessick, Assistant Commission Public Service Commission	Released in full.
5	4 October – 6 November 2024	Email correspondence regarding OIA H2024053059	<p>Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9(2)(a); • Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers and officers and employees of any public service agency; and • Section 9(2)(k) to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage. <p>Information deemed out of scope of your request has been excluded.</p>

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
6	4 November 2024	Email correspondence regarding a meeting between the Director-General of Health Diana Sarfati and Associate Minister of Health Hon Casey Costello	Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9(2)(g)(i); and • Section 9(2)(k).
7	5 November 2024	Text messages between the Director-General of Health Diana Sarfati and Associate Minister of Health Hon Casey Costello	Released in full.

From: Diana Sarfati <Diana.Sarfati@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 4:31 PM
To: DG All Staff <DG.All.Staff@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Standards of integrity and conduct

Kia ora koutou,

This Thursday is Public Service Day and it's a good time to reflect on what it means to be a good public servant. As public servants, we have a duty to uphold high standards of integrity and conduct. These are essential for maintaining the trust and confidence of all New Zealanders.

I want to take this time to remind all kaimahi about the importance of professionalism in all our communication. This includes emails, text and the way we speak to our colleagues. We are privileged in our roles to, at times, be given access to sensitive or confidential information and it's vital that each of us behave in a way that retains the trust of Ministers, Parliament and people of New Zealand. Trust is hard earned and easily lost.

I want to thank kaimahi for the dedication and hard mahi you bring to your roles every day, and for everything you are all doing to support our health system. Let's continue to work together to deliver the best outcomes for New Zealanders.

Di

Dr Diana Sarfati

Director-General of Health

Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora

Pronouns: She / Her

Email: diana.sarfati@health.govt.nz

www.health.govt.nz



RELEASE UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: Annie Coughlan <Annie.Coughlan@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 7:34 PM

To: Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>

Subject: news item

<https://www.1news.co.nz/2024/11/04/ministry-official-criticises-advice-used-to-justify-htp-tax-cut/>

Ngā mihi

Annie Coughlan (she/her)

Group Manager Communications & Engagement

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga

Waea pukoro: s 9(2)(a)

Īmēra: annie.coughlan@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: Sanjana George
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:57 PM
To: Arun Jeram <Arun.Jeram@tvnz.co.nz>; Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>; Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Cc: Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Kia ora koutou,

As mentioned, we are declining the interview request. However we have a written statement for you below:

Response – attributable to a Ministry of Health spokesperson:

“The comments referred to were from an internal exchange of emails and were not an official Ministry position. The comments were not a comprehensive assessment of the evidence base of smoking cessation tools. The Ministry remains committed to supporting the Government’s harm minimisation approach to achieving the Smokefree 2025 goal, and continues to monitor emerging evidence in order to best achieve a smokefree New Zealand. The impact of the excise reduction from 1 July will be reviewed within 12 months of this change and will be an important addition to the knowledge base.”

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Arun Jeram <Arun.Jeram@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:38 PM
To: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>; Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Cc: Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Thanks Sanjana. Deadline for including a written response from the Ministry is 17:00

Arun Jeram
Producer

m. s 9(2)(a)



From: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 4:35 pm
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Cc: Arun Jeram <Arun.Jeram@tvnz.co.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Thanks Sanjana. Please send asap

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:16:10 PM
To: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>; Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>
Cc: Arun Jeram <Arun.Jeram@tvnz.co.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Kia ora both,

Sorry for the delay. We won't be putting anyone up for interview but I'm trying to get you a written response asap.

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:11 PM
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>;
Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>

Cc: Arun Jeram <Arun.Jeram@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi Sanjana, an on-camera interview before 4PM would be highly preferable – given the very strong comments.

Cheers,

Benedict

From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:53 AM
To: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Thanks Thomas, much appreciated.

Sanjana George (she/her)
Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)
media@health.govt.nz
info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:43 AM
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: Re: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi Sanjana,

My apologies for not attaching the documents for reference.

Here you go. We intend to do a story on 6pm tonight. Fiona's response would be much appreciated.

Cheers
Tom

From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:41 AM

To: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Kia ora Thomas,

I'll get back to you on this.

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:27 AM
To: Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi There,

It's Tom here from 1News. We have seen the comments that Fiona has made regarding the studies that the government used to justify its tax cut for heated tobacco products as part of an OIA.

I was wondering if she would be open to an interview to talk about them?

Cheers

Thomas Day
Political Producer

d. s 9(2)(a)
m. s 9(2)(a)



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RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:51 PM
To: Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Revised statement...can you Teams me if OK?

Best
Blair

Blair McLaren

Manager Strategic Communications
Government & Executive Services | Te Pou Whakaterere
e. Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz
m: s 9(2)(a)
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street
Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Blair McLaren
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:50 PM
To: Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Revised statement...can you Teams me if OK?

Media query – Thomas Day, Benedict Collins, TVNZ:

We have seen the comments that Fiona has made regarding the studies that the government used to justify its tax cut for heated tobacco products as part of an OIA. I was wondering if she would be open to an interview to talk about them?

Response – attributable to a Ministry of Health

spokesperson:

Kia ora Thomas and Benedict

We are declining the interview request. However we have a written statement for you below:

“The comments referred to were from an internal exchange of emails and were not an official Ministry position. The comments were not a comprehensive assessment of the evidence base around smoking cessation tools. The Ministry remains committed to supporting the Governments harm minimisation approach to achieving the Smokefree 2025 goal, and continues to monitor emerging evidence in order to best achieve a smokefree New Zealand.

Best
Blair

Blair McLaren

Manager Strategic Communications
Government & Executive Services | Te Pou Whakaterere
e. Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz
m: § 9(2)(a)
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street
Thorndon, Wellington 6011



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Comms product - Thomas Day, Benedict Collins, TVNZ (HTPs):
Importance: High

Can we hold this please Blair? Changes coming post minister meeting.

Dr. Andrew Old (he/him)
Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
+64 4 466 5542 | andrew.old@health.govt.nz



From: Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 3:34 PM
To: Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Comms product - Thomas Day, Benedict Collins, TVNZ (HTPs):

Hi both

See below – this response has now been sent to Min Costello's office as an FYI. We aim to send this to TVNZ around 4pm.

Best
Blair

Blair McLaren
Manager Strategic Communications
Government & Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere
e. Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz
m: s 9(2)(a)
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Blair McLaren
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 3:31 PM
To: Richard Ninness-EXT <Richard.Ninness@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Comms product - Thomas Day, Benedict Collins, TVNZ (HTPs):

Kia ora Richard

Here is our proposed response to TVNZ re HTPs, for your information.

Media query – Thomas Day, Benedict Collins, TVNZ:

We have seen the comments that Fiona has made regarding the studies that the government used to justify its tax cut for heated tobacco products as part of an OIA.
I was wondering if she would be open to an interview to talk about them?

Response – attributable to a Ministry of Health spokesperson:

Kia ora Thomas and Benedict

We are declining the interview request. However we have a written statement for you below:

“Heated tobacco products are not widely used in New Zealand, and there is limited international evidence about their impact. In order to determine whether HTPs have a role in aiding smoking cessation, independent research with robust methodology is required. The Ministry continues to monitor emerging evidence regarding heated tobacco products. The impact of the excise reduction from 1 July will be reviewed within 12 months of this change and will be an important addition to the knowledge base.”

Kind regards
Blair

Blair McLaren

Manager Strategic Communications

Government & Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere

e. Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz

m: s 9(2)(a)

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 3:23 PM
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: media response

Media query – Thomas Day, Benedict Collins, TVNZ:

We have seen the comments that Fiona has made regarding the studies that the government used to justify its tax cut for heated tobacco products as part of an OIA.

I was wondering if she would be open to an interview to talk about them?

Response – attributable to a Ministry of Health spokesperson:

Kia ora Thomas and Benedict

We are declining the interview request. However we have a written statement for you below:

“Heated tobacco products are not widely used in New Zealand, and there is limited international evidence about their impact. In order to determine whether HTPs have a role in aiding smoking cessation, independent research with robust methodology is required. The Ministry continues to monitor emerging evidence regarding heated tobacco products. The impact of the excise reduction from 1 July will be reviewed within 12 months of this change and will be an important addition to the knowledge base.”

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 3:34 PM
To: Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Comms product - Thomas Day, Benedict Collins, TVNZ (HTPs):

Hi both

See below – this response has now been sent to Min Costello’s office as an FYI. We aim to send this to TVNZ around 4pm.

Best
Blair

Blair McLaren

Manager Strategic Communications
Government & Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere
e. Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz
m: s 9(2)(a)
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Blair McLaren
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 3:31 PM
To: Richard Ninness-EXT <Richard.Ninness@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Comms product - Thomas Day, Benedict Collins, TVNZ (HTPs):

Kia ora Richard

Here is our proposed response to TVNZ re HTPs, for your information.

Media query – Thomas Day, Benedict Collins, TVNZ:

We have seen the comments that Fiona has made regarding the studies that the government used to justify its tax cut for heated tobacco products as part of an OIA. I was wondering if she would be open to an interview to talk about them?

Response – attributable to a Ministry of Health spokesperson:

Kia ora Thomas and Benedict

We are declining the interview request. However we have a written statement for you below:

“Heated tobacco products are not widely used in New Zealand, and there is limited international evidence about their impact. In order to determine whether HTPs have a role in aiding smoking cessation, independent research with robust methodology is required. The Ministry continues to monitor emerging evidence regarding heated tobacco products. The impact of the excise reduction from 1 July will be reviewed within 12 months of this change and will be an important addition to the knowledge base.”

Kind regards
Blair

Blair McLaren

Manager Strategic Communications
Government & Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere
e. Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz
m: s 9(2)(a)
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 3:11 PM
To: Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>; Nicole Willis <Nicole.Willis@health.govt.nz>; DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>; Katharine Good <Katharine.Good@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

We have turned around a sentence below (pink) to be a bit more passive.

From: Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 3:03 PM
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>; Nicole Willis <Nicole.Willis@health.govt.nz>; DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>; Katharine Good <Katharine.Good@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Thanks All,

The question here is about reviews of international evidence, so I think important to frame that – i.e. it's not just that they're not widely used in NZ, it's that they're not widely used anywhere, and haven't been rigorously evaluated as a smoking cessation tool. So something in that first sentence that sets both the NZ and international context.

In the second sentence, which reviews are we talking about? *A number of commentators* have identified.... *Several international reviews* have identified (in which case we can remove 'international' from the earlier?? Need to differentiate from our internal reviews.



From: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:56 PM
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>; Nicole Willis <Nicole.Willis@health.govt.nz>; DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>; Katharine Good <Katharine.Good@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Kia ora – thanks Sanjana – the highlighted part isn't quite right – a bit of a stretch

Jane Chambers (she/her)

Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation

Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

+64 4 496 2000

Mobile: 9(2)(a)

Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:49 PM
To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>; Nicole Willis <Nicole.Willis@health.govt.nz>; DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>; Katharine Good <Katharine.Good@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Kia ora koutou,

Thanks Jane and team for the discussion. I've included the text which was suggested. Are you able to review this Andrew? Sorry for the double email.

Heated tobacco products are not widely used in New Zealand. At this stage, reviews have identified there is a need for more independent research with stronger methodology to determine whether HTPs have a role in aiding smoking cessation. The Ministry continues to monitor emerging evidence regarding heated tobacco products. The impact of the excise reduction from 1 July will be reviewed within 12 months of this change and will be the first New Zealand evidence seeking to address the potential impact of HTPs in smoking cessation."

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:49 PM

To: Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>

Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Blair McLaren

<Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>; Nicole Willis <Nicole.Willis@health.govt.nz>; DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

WE have just regrouped and come up with softer language.

Jane Chambers (she/her)

Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation

Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

+64 4 496 2000

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)

Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:48 PM
To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>; Nicole Willis <Nicole.Willis@health.govt.nz>; DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Thanks Jane,

Your tweaks crossed with mine.

I think using language from previous advice is a good approach where we can. I'm not sure we need to re-state our summary re there being no compelling evidence. We may be better to keep it a bit broader. I think helpful to still note they are relatively new internationally, as that provides context to the limited evidence. First mainstream use in ~2015/16 I think?

This was my suggestion:

“Heated tobacco products are a relatively new product, and are not widely used in New Zealand. As such, there is only limited evidence on which to base forecasts about their use and impacts over time, particularly in a New Zealand context. The Ministry continues to monitor emerging evidence regarding heated tobacco products. The impact of the excise reduction from 1 July will be reviewed within 12 months of this change and will be the first New Zealand evidence seeking to address the potential impact of HTPs in smoking cessation.”

Ngā mihi, A

Dr. Andrew Old (he/him)
Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
+64 4 466 5542 | andrew.old@health.govt.nz

From: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>

Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>; Nicole Willis <Nicole.Willis@health.govt.nz>; DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi Sanjana

Suggested tweaks – language from advice previously provided to the Minister – which is also publicly available .

“Heated tobacco products are a relatively new product, not widely used in New Zealand, and with very little evidence about how their use might change over time. These factors mean that at this stage, there is **no compelling evidence of any benefit from the use of HTPs as a smoking cessation tool** a high level of uncertainty in any Ministry of Health reviews of evidence.

It is important that we take all steps to reduce smoking rates. The Ministry continues to monitor emerging evidence regarding heated tobacco products.

The current excise tax on heated tobacco products remains in place. The impact of the excise reduction will be reviewed within 12 months of this change.”

Thanks - Jane

Jane Chambers (she/her)

Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
+64 4 496 2000
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)

Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:31 PM

To: Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>

Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>; Nicole Willis <Nicole.Willis@health.govt.nz>; DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Thanks Andrew,

Those changes look good and happy to not attribute to a spokesperson. Jane, I will also wait until your team is able to confirm they are comfortable.

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:23 PM
To: Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>; Diana Sarfati <Diana.Sarfati@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products
Importance: High

For visibility

Dr. Andrew Old (he/him)
Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
+64 4 466 5542 | andrew.old@health.govt.nz



From: Andrew Old
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:23 PM
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products
Importance: High

Thanks Sanjana,

Suggested amended response **highlighted** below.

if you would be comfortable being the spokesperson for this, Andrew? I can give you a call to explain my thinking.

FYI, I will send this to both the DG's office and Minister's office once we have a finalised response.

Draft response:

"Heated tobacco products are a relatively new product, not widely used in New Zealand, and with variable evidence about how their use and impacts may change over time. These factors mean that at this stage, there is a high level of uncertainty in any Ministry of Health review of the evidence.

It is important that we take all steps to reduce smoking rates. The Ministry continues to monitor emerging evidence regarding heated tobacco products.

The current excise tax on heated tobacco products remains in place. The impact of the excise reduction will be reviewed within 12 months of this change."

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, § 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 1:03 PM

To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>

Cc: Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>;

Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>

Subject: Fw: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Sorry, crossed emails! Just looping in everyone involved.

Sanjana George (she/her)

Media Advisor, § 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011

From: Sanjana George

Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 12:59:06 PM

To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi Jane,

A suggested response below. I might come and have a chat to you if you're in the office today?

"Heated tobacco products are a relatively new product, not widely used in New Zealand, and with very little evidence about how their use might change over time. These factors mean that at this stage, there is a high level of uncertainty in any Ministry of Health reviews of evidence.

It is important that we take all steps to reduce smoking rates. The Ministry continues to monitor emerging evidence regarding heated tobacco products.

The current excise tax on heated tobacco products remains in place. The impact of the excise reduction will be reviewed within 12 months of this change."

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Sanjana George

Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 12:51 PM

To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi Jane,

Just having a discussion with my GM about the response to this media query but wanted to give you a heads up about the query. I'll get back to you soon with a draft response.

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:43 AM
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: Re: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi Sanjana,

My apologies for not attaching the documents for reference.

Here you go. We intend to do a story on 6pm tonight. Fiona's response would be much appreciated.

Cheers
Tom

From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:41 AM
To: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Kia ora Thomas,

I'll get back to you on this.

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:27 AM
To: Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi There,

It's Tom here from 1News. We have seen the comments that Fiona has made regarding the studies that the government used to justify its tax cut for heated tobacco products as part of an OIA.

I was wondering if she would be open to an interview to talk about them?

Cheers

Thomas Day
Political Producer

d. s 9(2)(a)
m. s 9(2)(a)



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From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 5:12 PM
To: Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Annie Coughlan <Annie.Coughlan@health.govt.nz>; Blair McLaren <Blair.McLaren@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

From: Sanjana George
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:57 PM
To: Arun Jeram <Arun.Jeram@tvnz.co.nz>; Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>; Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Cc: Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Kia ora koutou,

As mentioned, we are declining the interview request. However we have a written statement for you below:

Response – attributable to a Ministry of Health spokesperson:

“The comments referred to were from an internal exchange of emails and were not an official Ministry position. The comments were not a comprehensive assessment of the evidence base of smoking cessation tools. The Ministry remains committed to supporting the Government’s harm minimisation approach to achieving the Smokefree 2025 goal, and continues to monitor emerging evidence in order to best achieve a smokefree New Zealand. The impact of the excise reduction from 1 July will be reviewed within 12 months of this change and will be an important addition to the knowledge base.”

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Arun Jeram <Arun.Jeram@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:38 PM
To: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>; Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>

Cc: Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Thanks Sanjana. Deadline for including a written response from the Ministry is 17:00

Arun Jeram
Producer

m. [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)



From: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 4:35 pm
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Cc: Arun Jeram <Arun.Jeram@tvnz.co.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Thanks Sanjana. Please send asap

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From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:16:10 PM
To: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>; Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>
Cc: Arun Jeram <Arun.Jeram@tvnz.co.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Kia ora both,

Sorry for the delay. We won't be putting anyone up for interview but I'm trying to get you a written response asap.

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:11 PM
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>;
Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Arun Jeram <Arun.Jeram@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi Sanjana, an on-camera interview before 4PM would be highly preferable – given the very strong comments.

Cheers,

Benedict

From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:53 AM
To: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Thanks Thomas, much appreciated.

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:43 AM
To: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: Re: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi Sanjana,

My apologies for not attaching the documents for reference.

Here you go. We intend to do a story on 6pm tonight. Fiona's response would be much appreciated.

Cheers
Tom

From: Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:41 AM
To: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Kia ora Thomas,

I'll get back to you on this.

Sanjana George (she/her)

Strategic Communications Advisor, s 9(2)(a)

media@health.govt.nz

info for media: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/media-centre>

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Wellington 6011



From: Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 11:27 AM
To: Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: 1News IV Request: Heated Tobacco Products

Hi There,

It's Tom here from 1News. We have seen the comments that Fiona has made regarding the studies that the government used to justify its tax cut for heated tobacco products as part of an OIA.

I was wondering if she would be open to an interview to talk about them?

Cheers

Thomas Day
Political Producer

d. s 9(2)(a)
m. s 9(2)(a)



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Monday 6:37 PM



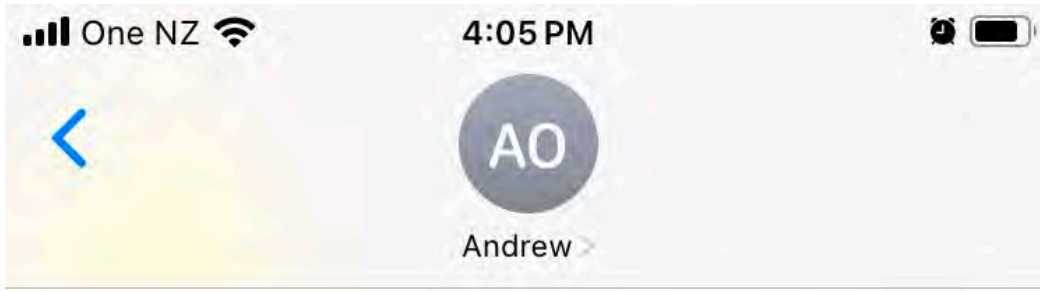
FYI. Media has named Fiona C.

Just acknowledging this [redacted] [redacted] [thumbs up icon]

[redacted]

+ Text Message · SMS [microphone icon]

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Monday 5:08 PM

I'm talking to Blair



Talked to Di

Been on 1 News.

One news have used images of the email and Fiona's name. Minister has released a statement saying that her officials don't support her agenda. Haven't seen anything in writing yet (just heard from someone watching the news) but it will come.

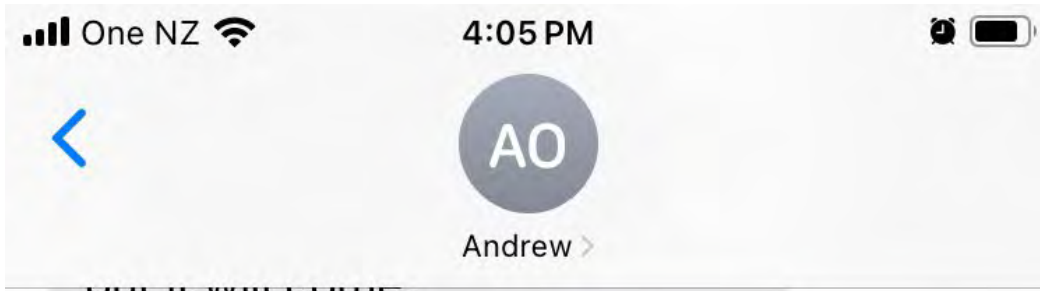
Thanks. Di will call you.



Text Message • SMS



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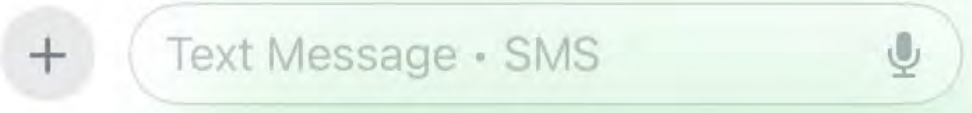


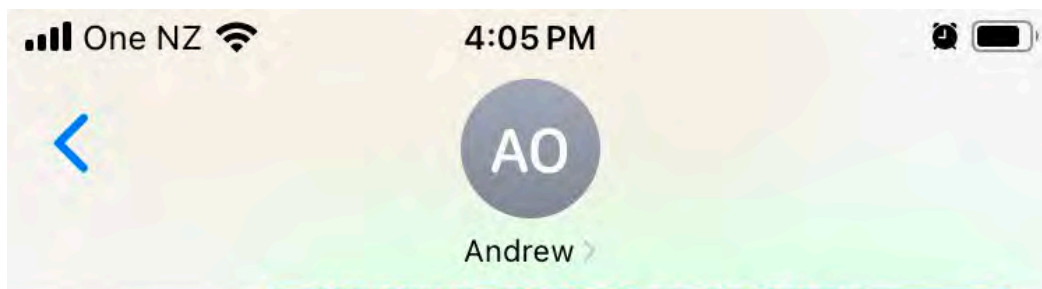
but it will come.

Thanks. Di will call you.



Thanks. They now want an interview w the DG in the morning. Annie is talking to her now.





interview w the DG in the morning. Annie is talking to her now.

Monday 7:41 PM

Annie has sent u draft response. Needs your urgent attention.

Sorry - had stepped away from my phone. Too late?

No. Pls call her now.

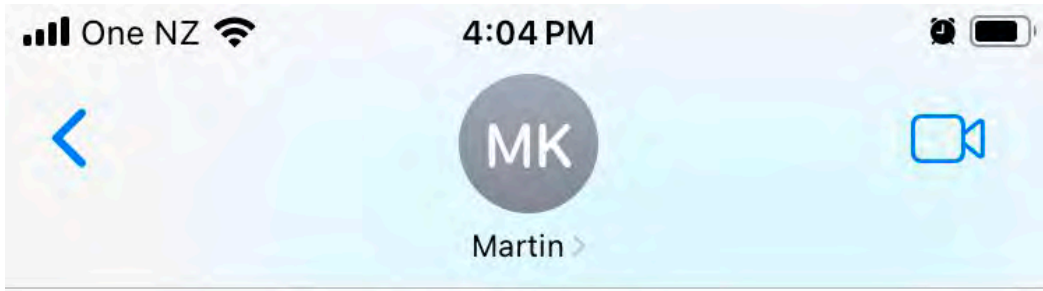


Yesterday 7:53 AM

Live: Minister accuses health officials of undermining smoking reforms



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Yesterday 3:35 PM

Dr Diana Sarfati, Director-General of Health:

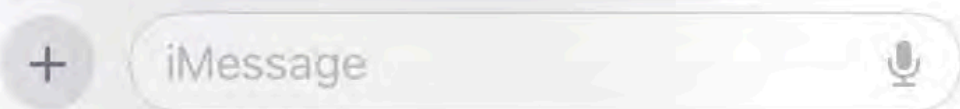
I spoke with the Minister yesterday and apologised for the unprofessional nature of the comments which were from an internal exchange of email and do not represent an official Ministry position.

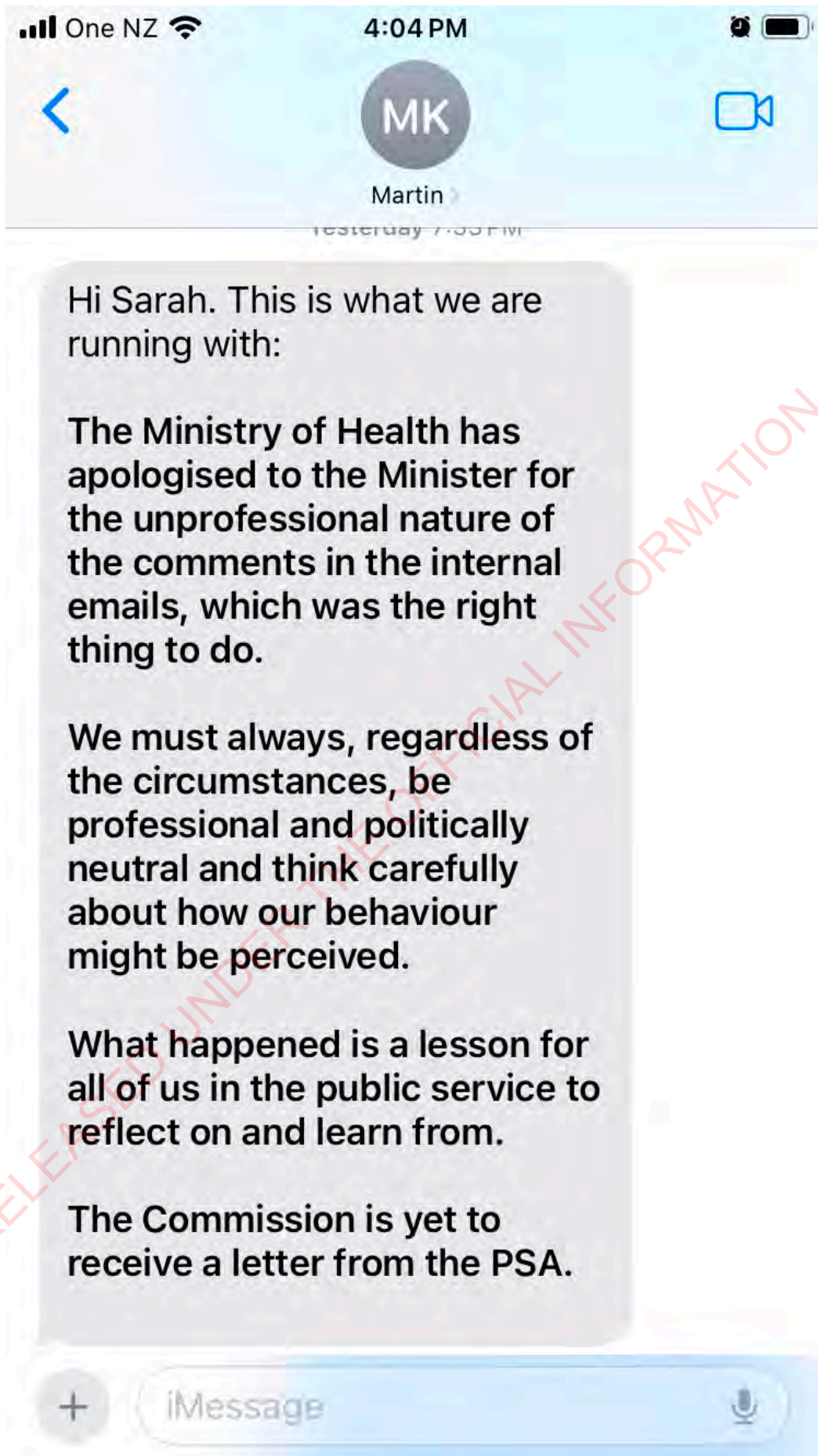
The Ministry of Health remains committed to supporting the Government's Smokefree 2025 goal.

I have no further comment to make.

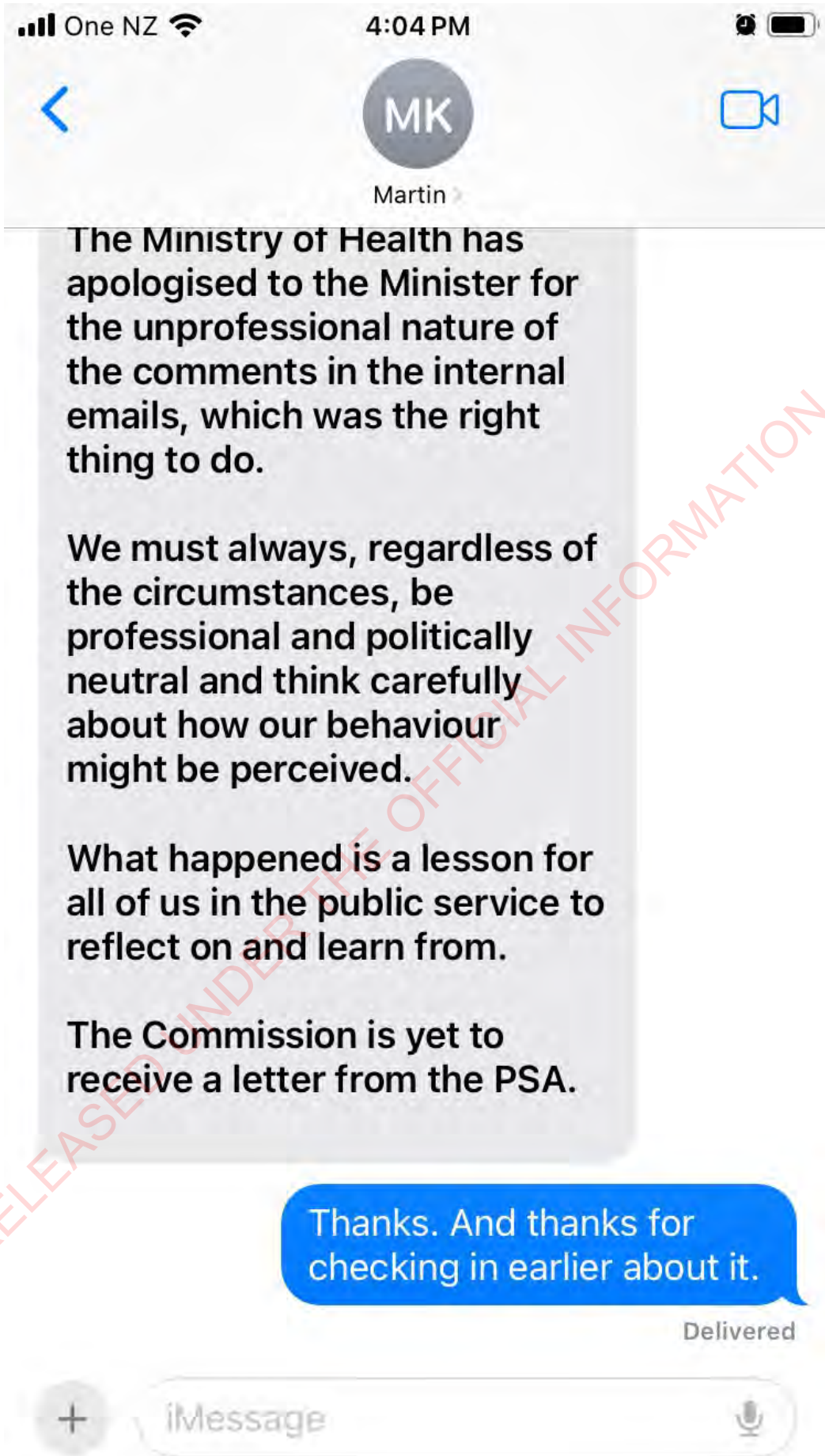
Yesterday 7:33 PM

Hi Sarah. This is what we are running with:





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The Ministry of Health has apologised to the Minister for the unprofessional nature of the comments in the internal emails, which was the right thing to do.

We must always, regardless of the circumstances, be professional and politically neutral and think carefully about how our behaviour might be perceived.

What happened is a lesson for all of us in the public service to reflect on and learn from.

The Commission is yet to receive a letter from the PSA.

Thanks. And thanks for checking in earlier about it.

Delivered



iMessage



From: Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 12:12 PM
To: Executive Governance Team <Executive.Governance.Team@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Elisabeth Brunt <Elisabeth.Brunt@health.govt.nz>; Lisa McPhail <Lisa.McPhail@health.govt.nz>
Subject: PLEASE READ: changes to our OIA handling processes

Kia ora koutou

You will all be aware of the media and political coverage following an OIA response regarding heated tobacco products. The Government Services Group has reviewed what occurred in relation to the handling of the OIA and is making some adjustments to Ministry processes.

I want to ensure you are aware of the work as these adjustments may require greater leadership from you and may impact on your directorates:

- Our delegation matrix allows DDGs to use their discretion to delegate sign-off on OIA responses (to GMs). This this will be rigorously enforced by OIA Services who will **require DDG sign-off** for all hot topic OIA responses
- We are running refresher training for the team on the 'no surprises approach' and it will be rigorously adhered to when engaging with Ministers' offices
- In cases where a requester asks for a response/redactions in an OIA response to be reconsidered, and doing so would result in significant change or release further information that could generate additional interest, **fresh DDG sign-off will be required**. Similarly, the no surprises approach for engaging with Ministers' offices will be applied for the reconsidered response.
- The team has also updated its internal deskfile to ensure consistency in how kaimahi interpret requests for all information on topics with no defined date range.

I am also working with team in Government Services to ensure the Ministry's overall approach to OIA processes and handling is consistent and meets expectations.

Finally, I encourage you to read Elisabeth Brunt's Friday update from Government Services each week. The second tab on the work-on-hand spreadsheet gives you detail of all active requests and I encourage you to engage with it. Elisabeth is happy to meet regularly with any DDG to discuss the requests and issues relating to your areas.

Ngā mihi,
Sarah

Sarah Turner (she/her)

Deputy Director-General

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere

Kāwanatanga

sarah.turner@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street

Thorndon, Wellington 6011



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From: Jan Torres <Jan.Torres@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 5:16 PM
To: Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Elisabeth Brunt <Elisabeth.Brunt@health.govt.nz>
Subject: OIA H2024053059

Kia ora Sarah

Thanks for your time. Confirming the discussed process change has been relayed to the team and will be discussed at our next team meeting.

You also asked for further information on the email in question (see attached), specifically whether it's considered in scope of the OIA request.

For context, the OIA was received on 4 October 2024 (via the FYI.org.nz website). It sought:

...all communications related to the independent advice referenced and released to the media by the Associate Minister of Health concerning the excise reduction for heated tobacco products. This request encompasses communications within the Ministry as well as between the Associate Minister and her office and the Ministry, including between Ministry executives and staff and the Minister, political staff and departmental private secretaries. Communications pertaining to articles that were identified but not released should also be included

The correspondence in question was exchanged on the same date the OIA was received (4 October 2024). While the requester did not specify a timeframe for their request, documents created on or before the date of the request are generally deemed within scope. The correspondence was included as it met the OIA's criteria relating to timing and relevance.

It is also relevant to note the Ombudsman's guidance regarding information that comes to be held after a request is received. The Ombudsman has ruled that:

Technically, a requester is only entitled to request information 'held' (ie, in existence) at the time of their request. However, there is nothing to prevent an agency from considering the additional relevant information in conveying its decision on the request. It may be reasonable to do so if there is no practical reason not to, and it is clear the requester would want to obtain the additional relevant information. At the least, an agency should make it clear to a requester if additional relevant information has come into existence which has not been captured by the scope of the request, so they may request it if they wish.

I hope this helps clarify this matter, please let me know if you require further information.

Ngā mihi

Jan Torres (she/her)

Manager, OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga

s 9(2)(a)

jan.torres@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011




From: Brian Watson <Brian.Watson@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 1:50 PM
To: Jo Waugh <Jo.Waugh@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Diana Sarfati <Diana.Sarfati@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Minister Costello

Hi all

I'm not what sure what has been relayed to you about the Minister's request, so just a heads up

The Minister has been contacted for an interview about the attached OIA today. This is the first time the Advisors and Minister have seen the response.

s 9(2)(g)(i)



See you later.

Cheers
Brian

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Brian Watson
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 1:17 PM
To: Brian Watson; jo.waugh@health.govt.nz
Cc: Diana Sarfati; Andrew Old; Sarah Turner
Subject: Meeting with Minister Costello
When: Monday, 4 November 2024 3:15 PM-4:00 PM (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.
Where: Parliament House 2.053

Hey Jo

As discussed, Teams link for Andrew

Cheers
Brian

s 9(2)(k)



From: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 14:15
To: Brian Watson [Parliament] <brian.watson@parliament.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>
Cc: mohoia <mohoia@health.govt.nz>; Ripine.Tito[Parliament] <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>; Public Health Agency ODDG <PHA-ODDG@health.govt.nz>; Jan Torres <Jan.Torres@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: RE: FYI - OIA Response H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora Brian

Thank you for your time. As discussed, the requester challenged the Ministry's decision to withhold information under the original response of 29 October. Specifically, the requester was critical of our decision withhold the following comment under free and frank:

Kia ora

Here is a potted summary of the docs. It is not so much that *all* of the studies are crap – the Swedish one is not too bad, and the Royal College of Physician report was good in 2016 – it is more that it is small number of selective research, not up to date, and certainly don't form any sort of robust evidence review and don't represent current evidence.

Following further discussions with our SMEs, a reconsidered response was issued on 31 October (attached). Unfortunately, this reconsidered material was not provided to your office ahead of the response being issued.

Keeping you in the loop [@Dawn Kelly](#) and PHA-ODDG. We apologise for the oversight from our end and resulting concerns.

If you'd like to discuss further or if we can assist with any queries, please let us know.

Ngā mihi

Sarah

OIA Services Team

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health



[Ministry of Health information releases](#)

From: Brian Watson <Brian.Watson@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 12:51
To: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>

Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>; mohoia <mohoia@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Ripine.Tito[Parliament] <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RE: FYI - OIA Response H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Thanks Sarah. Just needed to make sure

From: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 12:48 PM
To: Brian Watson <Brian.Watson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>; mohoia <mohoia@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Ripine Tito <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: RE: FYI - OIA Response H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora Brian

The response was sent to the requester on the same day (29 October). Please see the attached

Ngā mihi

Sarah

OIA Services Team

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

Ministry of Health information releases

From: Brian Watson <Brian.Watson@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 12:43
To: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>; mohoia <mohoia@health.govt.nz>; Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; Ripine.Tito[Parliament] <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RE: FYI - OIA Response H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Thanks team. Just confirm, when was the document released?

Cheers
Brian

From: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 12:38 PM
To: mohoia <mohoia@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: RE: FYI - OIA Response H2024053059 CRM:0121128

----- Original Message -----

From: Ripine Tito <ripine.tito@parliament.govt.nz>;
Received: Tue Oct 29 2024 11:16:52 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)

To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: FYI - OIA Response H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Thanks Josh

Ripine (Pine) Tito

Health Private Secretary | Office of Hon Casey Costello

DDI: 04 817 8875 | E: Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz

The information in this email (including attachments) is confidential and may be legally privileged. If an addressing or transmission error has misdirected this email, please notify the author by replying to this email and destroy the message. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure, copying or distribution is prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 11:08 AM
To: Ripine Tito <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FYI - OIA Response H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora Pine,

FYI – regarding the attached OIA response.

This relates to CCHOIA-229.

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong

Advisor | OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga

Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora

E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz

L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street



From: Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 14:24
To: Jan Torres <Jan.Torres@health.govt.nz>; OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: URGENT: OIA check

Thank you Jan.

I have spoke with both Josh and Sarah who explained the process and what happened. The main area for me was to understand how we deem advice risky which would trigger a five day review for MO.

I will wait to get a debrief post Min meeting this afternoon.

Dawn Kelly

Chief Advisor

Waea pūkoro: s 9(2)(a)

From: Jan Torres <Jan.Torres@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:19 PM
To: Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>; OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: URGENT: OIA check

Kia ora Dawn – apologies for the delay in coming back to you; I’ve asked one of our Seniors, Sarah M to give you a download on this. Let me know if you require anything further from our end, apologies for any resulting issues from this. Feel free to give me a call if you need anything else at this stage!

Jan Torres (she/her)

Manager, OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga

s 9(2)(a)

jan.torres@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Dawn Kelly <Dawn.Kelly@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 12:31 PM
To: Jan Torres <Jan.Torres@health.govt.nz>; OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Subject: URGENT: OIA check

Hi Jan, Team

The attached letter was signed by our GM in PHA, however the Minister’s office appear not to have seen it come through and there is now a media query.

Could you urgently confirm and forward notification to note/feedback from Minister Costello’s office.

Many thanks, Dawn

Dawn Kelly

Chief Advisor

Waea pūkoro: s 9(2)(a)

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From: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 12:39
To: Brian Watson [Parliament] <brian.watson@parliament.govt.nz>; Jan Torres <Jan.Torres@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Ripine.Tito[Parliament] <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: interview

Kia ora Brian

Thanks for your email. Please see the attached. The OIA response was sent to Pine on 29 October as an FYI.

Please let us know if you have any questions

Ngā mihi

Sarah

OIA Services Team
Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health



Ministry of Health information releases

From: Brian Watson <Brian.Watson@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 12:32
To: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>; Jan Torres <Jan.Torres@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Ripine.Tito[Parliament] <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: interview

Hi team

Could you urgently confirm if the office was forwarded a copy of this response for review please.

It doesn't ring any bells for me and can't find the response using the reference number in my inbox. Pine isn't here today so can't confirm what he received.

Cheers
Brian

From: Richard Ninness <Richard.Ninness@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 11:52 AM
To: Brian Watson <Brian.Watson@parliament.govt.nz>; Travis Ancelet <Travis.Ancelet@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: interview

This is URGENT.

First question – had we seen this OIA?????

From: Benedict Collins <Benedict.Collins@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 11:40 AM
To: Richard Ninness <Richard.Ninness@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: interview

Hi Richard,

We've got this OIA – pretty strong criticism from health experts of the Minister's independent advice on HTPs.

Is Minister Costello available to respond?

Cheers,

Benedict

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2024 08:58

To: P Robins <fyi-request-28646-6a17eb9b@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Subject: Re: Response to your request for official information, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora P Robins,

Thank you for your email.

After further consideration, the Ministry of Health - Manatū Hauora has decided to release the sentence requested to you. Please find attached a copy of the document.

We trust this information fulfils your request. 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.

Ngā mihi

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: Kristie Carter
Sent: Friday, 4 October 2024 10:33 am
To: Jane Chambers; Emma Hindson; Katharine Good
Cc: Fiona Callaghan; Kristen Davison
Subject: FW: Overview of HTP/smoking docs
Attachments: overview of htp documents.docx

Kia ora team

I asked Fiona to do a quick review of the "evidence" stated in this article – see attached.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/529782/casey-costello-releases-independent-advice-on-heated-tobacco>

I hope this is helpful.

Kristie

From: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 10:29 AM
To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Overview of HTP/smoking docs

Kia ora

Here is a potted summary of the docs. It is not so much that *all* of the studies are crap – the Swedish one is not too bad, and the Royal College of Physician report was good in 2016 -- it is more that it is small number of selective research, not up to date, and certainly don't form any sort of robust evidence review and don't represent current evidence.

Ngā mihi,

Dr Fiona Callaghan (She/her)

Chief Advisor Epidemiology

Intelligence, Surveillance, and Knowledge (ISK) | Ope Ate

Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

S9(2)(a)

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 4:05 PM
To: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Public Health Agency ODDG <PHA-ODDG@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Follow up query regarding the response to OIA H2024053059 CRM:0121128

I'm good if Fiona is good.

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 3:40:45 PM
To: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Public Health Agency ODDG <PHA-ODDG@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Follow up query regarding the response to OIA H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Thanks Fiona,

[@Kristie Carter](#) are you happy for the unredacted comment to be released?

Josh

From: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 2:10 PM
To: Public Health Agency ODDG <PHA-ODDG@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Follow up query regarding the response to OIA H2024053059 CRM:0121128

I'm all good with that
Fiona

From: Public Health Agency ODDG <PHA-ODDG@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Follow up query regarding the response to OIA H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora Kristie and Fiona,

See below follow query up on a recent OIA.

Can you please advise Josh if you are ok with the unredacted comments being released?

Ngā mihi

Brooklyn Yagmich (she/her)

Senior Advisor

Office of the Deputy Director-General

Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

Brooklyn.Yagmich@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 1:55 PM

To: Public Health Agency ODDG <PHA-ODDG@health.govt.nz>

Subject: Follow up query regarding the response to OIA H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora PHA,

We have received a follow up query regarding the attached OIA response. Specifically the comment on pg 7 from Fiona to Kristie.

Can you check with Fiona and Kristie to see if they have any issue with releasing the unredacted sentence. Here is a snip of the unredacted comment:

From: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 10:29 AM

To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>

Cc: Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>

Subject: Overview of HTP/smoking docs

Kia ora

Here is a potted summary of the docs. It is not so much that *all* of the studies are crap – the Swedish one is not too bad, and the Royal College of Physician report was good in 2016 -- it is more that it is small number of selective research, not up to date, and certainly don't form any sort of robust evidence review and don't represent current evidence.

Ngā mihi,

Dr Fiona Callaghan (She/her)

Chief Advisor Epidemiology

Intelligence, Surveillance, and Knowledge (ISK) | Ope Ate

Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

+64 4 496 2000

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011



Its important to note the Ombudsman's guidelines state by withholding under free and frank It recognises that the effective conduct of public affairs requires the candid and unreserved expression of opinions, and that public exposure of those opinions can sometimes have a chilling effect on people's willingness to express themselves openly, honestly and completely in future. However, in saying that we need to consider whether this specific sentence meets the threshold and public interest.

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong

Advisor | OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatore Kāwanatanga

Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora

E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz

L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street

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From: P Robins <fyi-request-28646-6a17eb9b@requests.fyi.org.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 23:42
To: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Response to your request for official information, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Dear OIA Requests,

Thank you for your response. I urge you to reconsider the redaction on page seven and provide your feedback by the end of the business day. There is a strong public interest in this information that should outweigh any justification for keeping it redacted. If I do not receive a timely response, I will have to file an urgent complaint with the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely,

P Robins

From: OIA Requests
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 11:37
To: P Robins <fyi-request-28646-6a17eb9b@requests.fyi.org.nz>
Subject: Response to your request for official information, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora,

Please find attached a response to your request for official information.

Ngā mihi

OIA Services Team

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health



[Ministry of Health information releases](#)

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

29 October 2024

P Robins

By email: fyi-request-28646-6a17eb9b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H2024053059

Tēnā koe P Robins

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 4 October 2024.

On 7 October 2024, you were advised that the Ministry had partially transferred your request to the Office of the Associate Minister of Health, Hon Casey Costello as the information is held by the Minister's office. Please find a response to your request for the Ministry's internal communications on heated tobacco products.

I am writing to formally request all communications related to the independent advice referenced and released to the media by the Associate Minister of Health concerning the excise reduction for heated tobacco products. This request encompasses communications within the Ministry as well as between the Associate Minister and her office and the Ministry, including between Ministry executives and staff and the Minister, political staff and departmental private secretaries. Communications pertaining to articles that were identified but not released should also be included.

The Ministry has identified three documents within scope of your request. All documents are itemised in Appendix 1 and copies of the documents are enclosed. Please note that this was a rapid assessment of the data at hand, and a follow-up email (also enclosed) further clarifies some of the information. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

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.

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.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Jane Chambers
Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

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Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	2-3 October 2024	Email correspondence: Lancet comment on tobacco harm reduction – embargoed	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Information deemed out of scope of your request has been excluded.
2	4 October 2024	Email correspondence: Overview of HTP/s	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers and officers and employees of any public service agency.
2A		Attachment: overview of htp documents	Released in full.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 9:55 AM

To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>; Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>

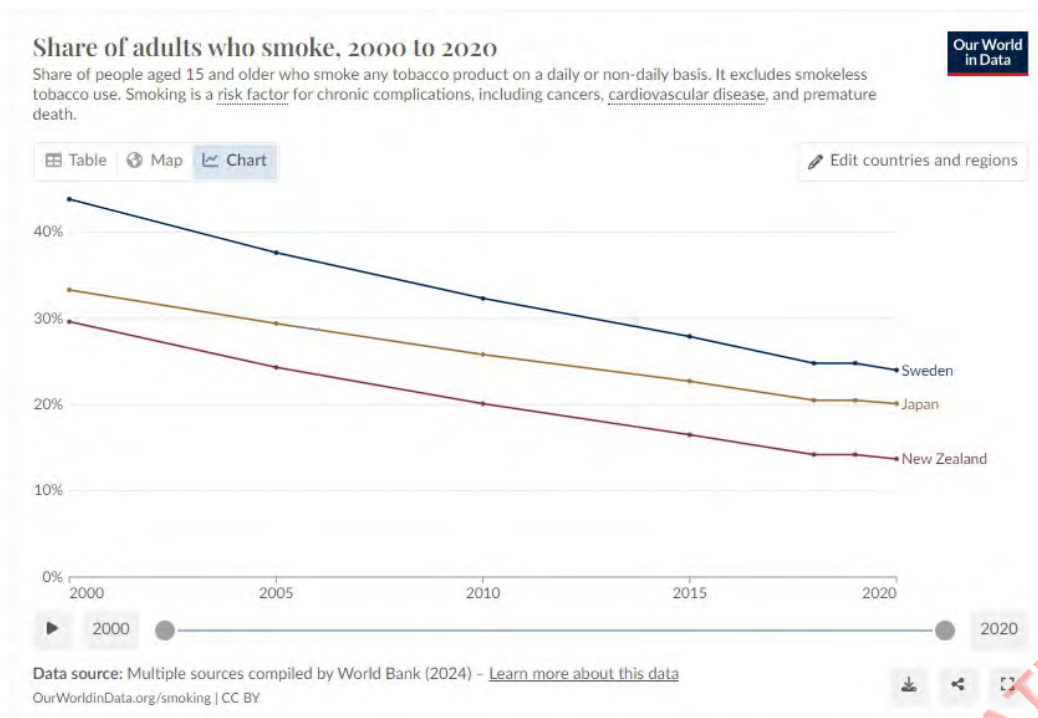
Cc: Greg Martin <Greg.Martin@health.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Lancet Comment on tobacco harm reduction - embargoed

Kia ora

Here are a few bits and pieces that may help – also Greg may have thoughts! I could go on but won't.

- The article is an opinion piece from 2024, albeit in a highly respected journal (Lancet). An **opinion piece is meant to be backed up by evidence, but it isn't aiming to be a complete or rigorous evidence review**, but it is supposed to be more of a 'reasonable' position on the data, argued from a particular point of view.
- The main focus is to argue that the WHO (particularly the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)) should more strongly emphasise harm reduction for smoking addiction. There is reasonable evidence that vaping or e-cigarettes may help with smoking cessation/quitting smoking, but **no evidence for other products such as snus (tobacco and non-tobacco) or heated tobacco products (HTPs) are effective for smoking cessation**.
- The first issue is the **author conflates e-cigarettes with tobacco products** like snus and heated tobacco products --lumping them all together as "novel nicotine products" or harm reduction devices -- with no justification. There is no evidence that snus or HTPs are used or effective for smoking cessation, whereas there are several studies evaluating e-cigarettes.
- The second issue is that the **evidence that the author cites for HTPs and snus and smoking rates, is very weak, simply citing two countries with low smoking rates who also use those products** (Japan and Sweden). This is known in epidemiology as the 'ecological fallacy', where two characteristics from a population of people are said to be causally related without any evidence that they are related. As we know, correlation is not causation, so a claim such as 'a country has high snu use and low smoking rates, therefore snus may help people quit smoking' needs to be evaluated with a study designed to evaluate that question, and cannot be inferred from two separate trends in the data.
- Sweden has a 'long tradition' of snu use, and declining smoking rates, with the author implying that snus have contributed to that decline. This is not very likely, especially if snu use has remained prevalent over that time period, and there are no studies evaluating snus as a smoking cessation tool. The Public health Agency of Sweden explicitly (cited by the author) also states "*Nicotine snus and e-cigarettes are not smoking cessation drugs*" and that "*Terms such as vape, tobacco-free snus and white snus can make them appear less harmful, but nicotine's toxic and addictive properties can negatively affect health.*"
[Nicotine products and health risks — Public Health Agency of Sweden \(folkhalsomyndigheten.se\)](https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/en/our-work/our-research/nicotine-products-and-health-risks)
- In addition, an analysis of 8 studies have found that **snu use has been associated with increased all-cause mortality in Sweden**: snu users had a 28% higher mortality risk compared to never-smokers, primarily due to higher risk of cardiovascular disease.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7825961/>
- The author also cites Japan having uptake of HTPs and attributes a link to lowering smoking rates. The **study cited for the claim that HTPs have helped to lower smoking rates in Japan (Cummings et al) is funded by Philip Morris**: "Data used for this study come from the Tobacco Institute of Japan and Philip Morris International".
- There is no evidence linking HTPs to declining smoking rates, and in fact smoking rates in Sweden, Japan, and New Zealand have all declined at about the same rate, with New Zealand having the lowest smoking rate, without prevalent snu, HTP or use of other similar products. <https://ourworldindata.org/smoking>. See below.
- The author also claims that not including nicotine products as part of harm reduction plans would 'favour' cigarette use and 'may discourage' vaping, without evidence for those claims.



From: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:45 PM

To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Lancet Comment on tobacco harm reduction - embargoed

Fiona is already onto it 😊

From: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:42 PM

To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>

Cc: Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>; Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Lancet Comment on tobacco harm reduction - embargoed

Kia ora Kristie

Could someone please review this document and provide any comment that may inform any media requests we get. We have no timeframes or requests at present, but we have been asked to be prepared. Happy to discuss.

Thanks - Jane

Jane Chambers (she/her)

Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation

Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

+64 4 496 2000

Mobile: S9(2)(a)


Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Lisa McPhail <Lisa.McPhail@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:17 PM
To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Lancet Comment on tobacco harm reduction - embargoed

FYI

Out of Scope



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From: Kristie Carter
Sent: Friday, 4 October 2024 10:33 am
To: Jane Chambers; Emma Hindson; Katharine Good
Cc: Fiona Callaghan; Kristen Davison
Subject: FW: Overview of HTP/smoking docs
Attachments: overview of htp documents.docx

Kia ora team

I asked Fiona to do a quick review of the "evidence" stated in this article – see attached.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/529782/casey-costello-releases-independent-advice-on-heated-tobacco>

I hope this is helpful.

Kristie

From: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 10:29 AM
To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Overview of HTP/smoking docs

Kia ora

Here is a potted summary of the docs. S9(2)(g)(i)

it is more that it is small number of selective research, not up to date, and certainly don't form any sort of robust evidence review and don't represent current evidence.

Ngā mihi,

Dr Fiona Callaghan (She/her)

Chief Advisor Epidemiology

Intelligence, Surveillance, and Knowledge (ISK) | Ope Ate

Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

+64 4 496 2000

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011



Overall

- While not all the studies are of poor quality, overall these studies do not form an up-to-date, balanced view of the latest evidence on the impact of alternatives to tobacco cigarettes on smoking rates. Some studies are older, using data from prior to the widespread use of e-cigarettes (eg 2016 and before), and evidence has developed since then, and others are opinion pieces, and others relate to studies of trends in other countries that do not relate well to the New Zealand context, e.g., when e-cigarettes could not be marketed in Japan, or related to Sweden's tradition of 'snu' use, an alternative tobacco product developed in Sweden.

Royal College of Physicians report, 2016, "Nicotine without smoke: tobacco harm reduction"

<https://www.rcp.ac.uk/improving-care/resources/nicotine-without-smoke-tobacco-harm-reduction/>

- The RCP report is from 2016, and evidence has developed since that time. Vaping has grown substantially in popularity.
- The essential argument of the report is that non-tobacco, nicotine products are far less harmful than tobacco cigarettes, and their use should be encouraged in smokers. They acknowledge that there are harms and unknown potential harms associated with e-cigarettes, but that these are far outweighed by the known, substantial harm associated with tobacco cigarettes.
- They acknowledge that nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) patches are a less harmful nicotine replacement method, but that e-cigarettes are preferred by smokers.
- The report considers that non-smokers may vape also and this could lead to unintended harm if e-cigarettes are made widely available, but says "...are being used almost exclusively as safer alternatives to smoked tobacco...". This was likely true in 2016, but since then evidence has shown that there are a substantial number of young people who vape who are non-tobacco smokers.

Cummings et al *What Is Accounting for the Rapid Decline in Cigarette Sales in Japan?* 2020,

International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/10/3570>

- This study uses data from smoking rates and HTP use rates (2011-2019), and shows that the rates of smoking declined at the same time that the rates of HTP use increased. This is not a study designed to show causation, such as prospective study of smokers and non-smokers followed over time, or a detailed questionnaire of smokers and HTP users. They do not show one trend is casually linked to the other, just that the trends occurred at the same time on a national level.
- They do not consider e-cigarette trends, and in fact state that Japan "...prohibits the marketing of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)...". Hence, it only considers the impact of HTP use in a country where HTPs are marketed but e-cigarettes are not. This limits the applicability to most countries, including New Zealand.
- Data used for this study come from the Tobacco Institute of Japan and Philip Morris International.

Ramstrom et al 2016 *Patterns of Smoking and Snus Use in Sweden: Implications for Public Health* .

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5129320/pdf/ijerph-13-01110.pdf>

- 'snus' are a non-combustible, lower-toxicity (compared to regular tobacco cigarettes), oral tobacco product. This product was developed in Sweden in the 1970s by the then government-owned tobacco company, in the context of high smoking rates, to provide a less harmful alternative to tobacco cigarettes. Snus accounts for a substantial proportion of the tobacco market there, but is not a product widely used outside of Sweden.
- The paper reports that snu users are less likely to become smokers than non-snu users, and that smokers who also use snus, tend to quit using regular tobacco cigarettes. This study is more than simply a report of a correlation of trends in smoking, but does involve a relatively detailed survey of people and their smoking habits.
- The paper states that snus are not associated with a mortality risk, except for acute myocardial infarction risk. Evidence has grown since 2016. Subsequent studies have shown that snus are associated with around a 30% increased all-cause mortality risk and a similar increased risk of cardiovascular-related death. [Swedish snus use is associated with mortality: a pooled analysis of eight prospective studies | International Journal of Epidemiology | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)
- It is unknown if snus or any other alternative to tobacco cigarettes would have the same impact on a population, or even if the availability of alternatives leads to lower smoking rates. Smoking rates were declining in many countries prior to the availability of e-cigarettes or other products. The lower smoking rates in Sweden or elsewhere could also be due to other public health actions occurring at the same time, e.g., anti-smoking campaigns, greater awareness, increases in cost of tobacco products, changes in public attitudes to smoking etc.

Levy et al 2022 A Decision-Theoretic Public Health Framework for Heated Tobacco and Nicotine Vaping Products <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9602493/pdf/ijerph-19-13431.pdf>

- This paper proposed a framework for how HTPs, e-cigarettes and other non-tobacco cigarette products might be regulated and rolled-out with the overall goal of reducing tobacco smoking rates. It is proposed policy road map, but does not provide evidence that this framework would be successful, or evidence on the harms of smoking, smoking cessation efficacy, or other related issues.

Beaglehole et al 2014 Harnessing tobacco harm reduction [Harnessing tobacco harm reduction - ScienceDirect](#)

- [I've updated from my previous email below with changes in red]
- The article is an opinion piece from 2014, albeit in a highly respected journal (Lancet). An **opinion piece is meant to be backed up by evidence, but it isn't aiming to be a complete or rigorous evidence review**, but it is supposed to be more of a 'reasonable' position on the data, argued from a particular point of view.
- The main focus is to argue that the WHO (particularly the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)) should more strongly emphasise harm reduction for smoking addiction. There is reasonable evidence that vaping or e-cigarettes may help with smoking cessation/quitting smoking, but **no evidence for other products such as snus (tobacco and non-tobacco) or heated tobacco products (HTPs) are effective for smoking cessation.**
- The first issue is the **author conflates e-cigarettes with tobacco products** like snus and heated tobacco products --lumping them all together as "novel nicotine products" or harm reduction devices -- with no justification. There is no evidence that snus or HTPs are used or effective for smoking cessation, whereas there are several studies evaluating e-cigarettes.
- The second issue is that the **evidence that the author cites for HTPs and snus and smoking rates, is very weak, simply citing two countries with low smoking rates who also use those**

products (Japan, Sweden). This is known in epidemiology as the 'ecological fallacy', where two characteristics from a population of people are said to be causally related without any evidence that they are related. As we know, correlation is not causation, so a claim such as 'a country has high snu use and low smoking rates, therefore snus may help people quit smoking' needs to be evaluated with a study designed to evaluate that question, and cannot be inferred from two separate trends in the data.

- Sweden has a 'long tradition' of snu use, and declining smoking rates, with the author implying that snus have contributed to that decline. This is not very likely, especially if snu use has remained prevalent over that time period, and there are no studies evaluating snus as a smoking cessation tool. **The study observes that in Sweden individuals that start using snus, tend to stay using snus, and that smokers will often switch to snus, and many people use neither. However, this doesn't provide evidence that snus are used as a smoking cessation tool, only that in a country where both are available, the use of one or other or both are prevalent, and one is associated with less harm.** The Public health Agency of Sweden explicitly (cited by the author) also states "*Nicotine snus and e-cigarettes are not smoking cessation drugs*" and that "*Terms such as vape, tobacco-free snus and white snus can make them appear less harmful, but nicotine's toxic and addictive properties can negatively affect health.*" [Nicotine products and health risks — Public Health Agency of Sweden \(folkhalsomyndigheten.se\)](#)
- In addition, an analysis of 8 studies have found that **snu use has been associated with increased all-cause mortality in Sweden**: snu users had a 28% higher mortality risk compared to never-smokers, primarily due to higher risk of cardiovascular disease. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7825961/>
- The author also cites Japan having uptake of HTPs and attributes a link to lowering smoking rates. The **study cited for the claim that HTPs have helped to lower smoking rates in Japan (Cummings et al) is provided by tobacco companies**: "Data used for this study come from the Tobacco Institute of Japan and Philip Morris International".
- There is no evidence linking HTPs to declining smoking rates, and in fact smoking rates in Sweden, Japan, and New Zealand have all declined at about the same rate, with New Zealand having the lowest smoking rate, without prevalent snu, HTP or use of other similar products. <https://ourworldindata.org/smoking>. See below.
- The author also claims that not including nicotine products as part of harm reduction plans would 'favour' cigarette use and 'may discourage' vaping, without evidence for those claims.

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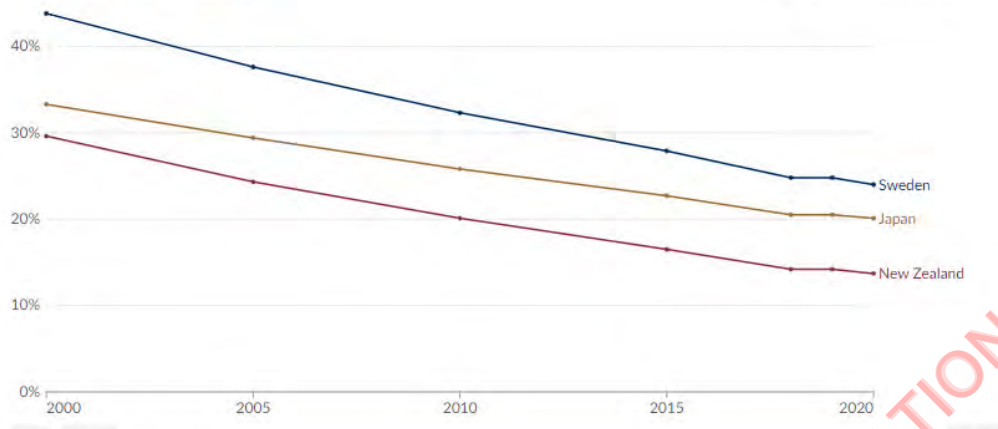
Share of adults who smoke, 2000 to 2020

Our World
in Data

Share of people aged 15 and older who smoke any tobacco product on a daily or non-daily basis. It excludes smokeless tobacco use. Smoking is a risk factor for chronic complications, including cancers, cardiovascular disease, and premature death.

Table Map Chart

Edit countries and regions



2000 2005 2010 2015 2020

Data source: Multiple sources compiled by World Bank (2024) - [Learn more about this data](#)
OurWorldinData.org/smoking | CC BY

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From: Ripine Tito <ripine.tito@parliament.govt.nz>;
Received: Tue Oct 29 2024 11:16:52 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong
<joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: FYI - OIA Response H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Thanks Josh

Ripine (Pine) Tito
Health Private Secretary | Office of Hon Casey Costello

DDI: 04 817 8875 | E: Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz

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From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 11:08 AM
To: Ripine Tito <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FYI - OIA Response H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora Pine,

FYI – regarding the attached OIA response.

This relates to CCHOIA-229.

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong
Advisor | OIA Services
Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga
Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora
E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz
L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street

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From: DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Tue Oct 29 2024 10:21:54 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: FYI - OIA H2024053059 CRM:0121128 (Comms about Minister independent HTP advice)

Noted by DGA

Many thanks
Lisa

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 8:44 AM
To: DG Advisory <dgadvisory@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FYI - OIA H2024053059 CRM:0121128 (Comms about Minister independent HTP advice)

Kia ora DGA,

FYI – regarding the attached OIA response about the Ministry’s comms on Minister Costello’s independent HTP advice.

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong
Advisor | OIA Services
Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga
Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora
E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz
L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street

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From: Rebecca Berlips <rebecca.berlips@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Mon Oct 28 2024 11:59:44 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Public Health Agency ODDG <pha-oddg@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Public Health Agency <pha-oddg@health.govt.nz>; Public Health Agency <pha-oddg@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: FW: OIA response for GM review/sign off - H2024053059 (DUE 4 November 2024) CRM:0121128

Jane has reviewed, approved and signed this response.

[Response due 4 November 2024](#)

[@Public Health Agency ODDG](#) - FYI

Ngā mihi nui

Rebecca Berlips (she/her)

Executive Assistant to Jane Chambers
Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
+64 4 496 2000

Email: rebecca.berlips@health.govt.nz
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2024 9:36 AM
To: Rebecca Berlips <rebecca.berlips@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA response for GM review/sign off - H2024053059 (DUE 4 November 2024) CRM:0121128

Approved.

Jane Chambers (she/her)

Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
+64 4 496 2000
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)

Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Rebecca Berlips <rebecca.berlips@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 1:19 PM
To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: OIA response for GM review/sign off - H2024053059 (DUE 4 November 2024) CRM:0121128

For your review and approval.

[Response due 4 November 2024](#)

Ngā mihi nui

Rebecca Berlips (she/her)

Executive Assistant to Jane Chambers
Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
+64 4 496 2000

Email: rebecca.berlips@health.govt.nz
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 11:03 AM
To: Rebecca Berlips <rebecca.berlips@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: OIA response for GM review/sign off - H2024053059 (DUE 4 November 2024)
CRM:0121128

Kia ora Rebecca,

Out of scope

Please see an OIA response for Jane's review/sign off: [Response due 4 November 2024](#)

Out of scope

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong

Advisor | OIA Services
Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga
Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora
E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz
L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street

From: Kristie Carter <kristie.carter@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Fri Oct 25 2024 10:45:41 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <fiona.callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <emma.hindson@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Cc: Sonya Toleafoa <sonya.toleafoa@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: OIA request - H2024053059 (DUE 4 November 2024) CRM:0121128

Awesome thanks 😊

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 10:27 AM
To: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA request - H2024053059 (DUE 4 November 2024) CRM:0121128

Thanks all,

The comment that Kristie pointed out below I think can be withheld under 9(2)(g)(i) – Free and frank.

Ngā mihi
Josh

From: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 5:29 PM
To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA request - H2024053059 (DUE 4 November 2024) CRM:0121128

Kia ora

Thanks for flagging Kristie – I saw at the start of the day and was meaning to get to it all day. Looks good to me with one suggestion: because there are a couple of statements that are not correct in the first email, and I clarified in the second email, I would like that stated explicitly if possible. I have suggested “Please note that this was a rapid assessment of the data at hand, and a follow-up email (also enclosed) further clarifies some of the information.”

Ngā mihi,

Dr Fiona Callaghan (She/her)
Chief Advisor Epidemiology
Intelligence, Surveillance, and Knowledge (ISK) | Ope Ate
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
+64 4 496 2000
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Kristie Carter <kristie.carter@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Thu Oct 24 2024 16:28:12 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <fiona.callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <emma.hindson@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Cc: Sonya Toleafoa <sonya.toleafoa@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: OIA request - H2024053059 (DUE 4 November 2024) CRM:0121128

[@Fiona Callaghan](#) Can you check you are OK with the proposed release of your docs?
Out of scope

From: Emma Hindson <emma.hindson@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Thu Oct 24 2024 08:37:06 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <fiona.callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <kristie.carter@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Cc: Sonya Toleafoa <sonya.toleafoa@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: OIA request - H2024053059 (DUE 4 November 2024) CRM:0121128

Thanks Josh. No further comment from me.

Emma Hindson (she/her)
Acting Manager
Public Health Policy and Regulation, Ope Atarau
emma.hindson@health.govt.nz

Public Health Agency
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street
Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 8:30 AM
To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA request - H2024053059 (DUE 4 November 2024) CRM:0121128

Kia ora,

Thanks for your input on the below OIA about internal communications about Minister Costello's independent HTP advice.

I've bundled the emails you sent and drafted a response for your review: [Response due 4 November 2024](#)

Can you please advise if you're happy with the letter and the documents for release?

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong

Advisor | OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatore Kāwanatanga

Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora

E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz

L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street

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From: Jan Torres <jan.torres@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Wed Oct 23 2024 13:55:56 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong
<joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: OIA Response for review, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Thank you Josh – good to go!

Jan Torres (she/her)

Manager, OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakaterere Kāwanatanga

s 9(2)(a)

jan.torres@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Wed Oct 23 2024 12:03:09 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Jan Torres <jan.torres@health.govt.nz>; Jan Torres
<jan.torres@health.govt.nz>; Te Pou Whakahaere <jan.torres@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: OIA Response for review, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora Jan,

Please see another OIA response for your review: [Response due 4 November 2024](#)

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong

Advisor | OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakaterere Kāwanatanga

Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora

E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz

L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street

-

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 11:58 am
To: mohoia <mohoia@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA Response for PR, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Sorry that should be unredacted.

From: mohoia <mohoia@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: OIA Response for PR, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Thanks Josh! Any reason why the DDIs are withheld?

Ngā mihi

SM1

OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

Īmēra: mohoia@health.govt.nz



From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 11:05 am
To: mohoia <mohoia@health.govt.nz>
Subject: OIA Response for PR, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora,

Please see an OIA response for PR: [Response due 4 November 2024](#)

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong

Advisor | OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga

Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora

E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz

L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street



From: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>; Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Katharine Good <Katharine.Good@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>; Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA request

Here is another more fulsome, and corrected doc.

From: Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 1:47 PM
To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>; Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>; Katharine Good <Katharine.Good@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>; Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>
Subject: OIA request

Kia ora koutou

We have had an OIA request on the HTP independent advice referred to by the Minister in media (and subsequently released), see below:

I am writing to formally request all communications related to the independent advice referenced and released to the media by the Associate Minister of Health concerning the excise reduction for heated tobacco products.

This request encompasses communications within the Ministry as well as between the Associate Minister and her office and the Ministry, including between Ministry executives and staff and the Minister, political staff and departmental private secretaries. Communications pertaining to articles that were identified but not released should also be included.

To clarify, "communications" refers to all forms of electronic and written correspondence, including but not limited to emails, text messages, messaging apps (such as Teams, WhatsApp, Signal, Slack, and Telegram), and handwritten notes (such as notebooks, meeting minutes, or post-it notes).

I am only aware of the email trail below and I would be very grateful if you could send anything else you may have directly to Josh Wong in the OIA team.

Ngā mihi

Emma

Emma Hindson (she/her)
Acting Manager
Public Health Policy and Regulation, Ope Atarau
emma.hindson@health.govt.nz

Public Health Agency
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street
Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 9:55 AM
To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>; Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Greg Martin <Greg.Martin@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Lancet Comment on tobacco harm reduction - embargoed

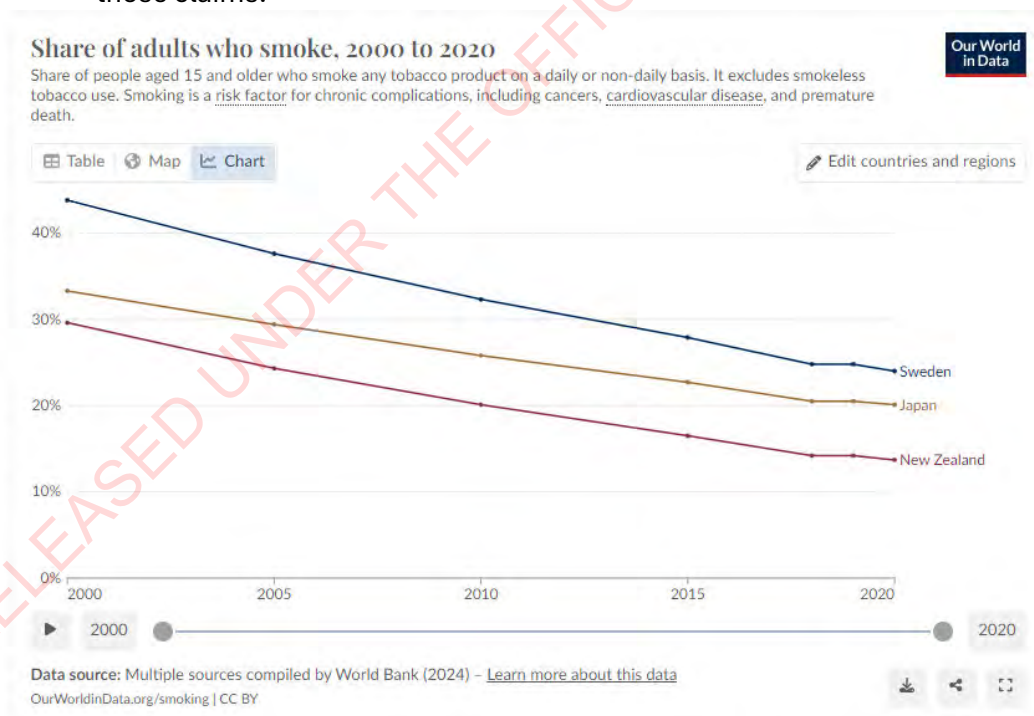
Kia ora

Here are a few bits and pieces that may help – also Greg may have thoughts! I could go on but won't.

- The article is an opinion piece from 2024, albeit in a highly respected journal (Lancet). **An opinion piece is meant to be backed up by evidence, but it isn't aiming to be a complete or rigorous evidence review**, but it is supposed to be more of a 'reasonable' position on the data, argued from a particular point of view.
- The main focus is to argue that the WHO (particularly the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)) should more strongly emphasise harm reduction for smoking addiction. There is reasonable evidence that vaping or e-cigarettes may help with smoking cessation/quitting smoking, but **no evidence for other products such as snus (tobacco and non-tobacco) or heated tobacco products (HTPs) are effective for smoking cessation**.
- The first issue is the **author conflates e-cigarettes with tobacco products** like snus and heated tobacco products --lumping them all together as "novel nicotine products" or harm reduction devices -- with no justification. There is no evidence that snus or HTPs are used or effective for smoking cessation, whereas there are several studies evaluating e-cigarettes.
- The second issue is that the **evidence that the author cites for HTPs and snus and smoking rates, is very weak, simply citing two countries with low smoking rates who also use those products** (Japan and Sweden). This is known in epidemiology as the 'ecological fallacy', where two characteristics from a population of people are said to be causally related without any evidence that they are related. As we know, correlation is not causation, so a claim such as 'a country has high snu use and low smoking rates, therefore snus may help people quit smoking' needs to be evaluated

with a study designed to evaluate that question, and cannot be inferred from two separate trends in the data.

- Sweden has a ‘long tradition’ of snu use, and declining smoking rates, with the author implying that snus have contributed to that decline. This is not very likely, especially if snu use has remained prevalent over that time period, and there are no studies evaluating snus as a smoking cessation tool. The Public health Agency of Sweden explicitly (cited by the author) also states “*Nicotine snus and e-cigarettes are not smoking cessation drugs*” and that “*Terms such as vape, tobacco-free snus and white snus can make them appear less harmful, but nicotine's toxic and addictive properties can negatively affect health.*” [Nicotine products and health risks — Public Health Agency of Sweden \(folkhalsomyndigheten.se\)](#)
- In addition, an analysis of 8 studies have found that **snu use has been associated with increased all-cause mortality in Sweden**: snu users had a 28% higher mortality risk compared to never-smokers, primarily due to higher risk of cardiovascular disease. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7825961/>
- The author also cites Japan having uptake of HTPs and attributes a link to lowering smoking rates. The **study cited for the claim that HTPs have helped to lower smoking rates in Japan (Cummings et al) is funded by Philip Morris**: “Data used for this study come from the Tobacco Institute of Japan and Philip Morris International”.
- There is no evidence linking HTPs to declining smoking rates, and in fact smoking rates in Sweden, Japan, and New Zealand have all declined at about the same rate, with New Zealand having the lowest smoking rate, without prevalent snu, HTP or use of other similar products. <https://ourworldindata.org/smoking>. See below.
- The author also claims that not including nicotine products as part of harm reduction plans would ‘favour’ cigarette use and ‘may discourage’ vaping, without evidence for those claims.



From: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:45 PM
To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Lancet Comment on tobacco harm reduction - embargoed

Fiona is already onto it 😊

From: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:42 PM
To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>; Media MOH <media@health.govt.nz>; Sanjana George <Sanjana.George@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Lancet Comment on tobacco harm reduction - embargoed

Kia ora Kristie

Could someone please review this document and provide any comment that may inform any media requests we get. We have no timeframes or requests at present, but we have been asked to be prepared. Happy to discuss.

Thanks - Jane

Jane Chambers (she/her)

Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
+64 4 496 2000
Mobile: s 9(2)(a)

Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011



From: Lisa McPhail <Lisa.McPhail@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:17 PM
To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Lancet Comment on tobacco harm reduction - embargoed

FYI

From: Brian Watson <Brian.Watson@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:08 PM
To: Lisa McPhail <Lisa.McPhail@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Ripine.Tito[Parliament] <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Lancet Comment on tobacco harm reduction - embargoed

Hi Lisa

As discussed.

Cheers

Brian

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 10:33 AM
To: Jane Chambers <Jane.Chambers@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>; Katharine Good <Katharine.Good@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>; Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Overview of HTP/smoking docs

Kia ora team

I asked Fiona to do a quick review of the “evidence” stated in this article – see attached.
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/529782/casey-costello-releases-independent-advice-on-heated-tobacco>
I hope this is helpful.

Kristie

From: Fiona Callaghan <Fiona.Callaghan@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 10:29 AM
To: Kristie Carter <Kristie.Carter@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Kristen Davison <Kristen.Davison@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Overview of HTP/smoking docs

Kia ora

Here is a potted summary of the docs. It is not so much that *all* of the studies are crap – the Swedish one is not too bad, and the Royal College of Physician report was good in 2016 -- it is more that it is small number of selective research, not up to date, and certainly don't form any sort of robust evidence review and don't represent current evidence.

Ngā mihi,

Dr Fiona Callaghan (She/her)
Chief Advisor Epidemiology
Intelligence, Surveillance, and Knowledge (ISK) | Ope Ate
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
+64 4 496 2000
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011



Attachment:

Overall

- While not all the studies are of poor quality, overall these studies do not form an up-to-date, balanced view of the latest evidence on the impact of alternatives to tobacco cigarettes on smoking rates. Some studies are older, using data from prior to the widespread use of e-cigarettes (eg 2016 and before), and evidence has developed since then, and others are opinion pieces, and others relate to studies of trends in other countries that do not relate well to the New Zealand context, e.g., when e-cigarettes could not be marketed in Japan, or related to Sweden's tradition of 'snu' use, an alternative tobacco product developed in Sweden.

Royal College of Physicians report, 2016, "Nicotine without smoke: tobacco harm reduction" <https://www.rcp.ac.uk/improving-care/resources/nicotine-without-smoke-tobacco-harm-reduction/>

- The RCP report is from 2016, and evidence has developed since that time. Vaping has grown substantially in popularity.
- The essential argument of the report is that non-tobacco, nicotine products are far less harmful than tobacco cigarettes, and their use should be encouraged in smokers. They acknowledge that there are harms and unknown potential harms associated with e-cigarettes, but that these are far outweighed by the known, substantial harm associated with tobacco cigarettes.
- They acknowledge that nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) patches are a less harmful nicotine replacement method, but that e-cigarettes are preferred by smokers.
- The report considers that non-smokers may vape also and this could lead to unintended harm if e-cigarettes are made widely available, but says "...are being used almost exclusively as safer alternatives to smoked tobacco...". This was likely true in 2016, but since then evidence has shown that there are a substantial number of young people who vape who are non-tobacco smokers.

Cummings et al *What Is Accounting for the Rapid Decline in Cigarette Sales in Japan?* 2020, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/10/3570>

- This study uses data from smoking rates and HTP use rates (2011-2019), and shows that the rates of smoking declined at the same time that the rates of HTP use increased. This is not a study designed to show causation, such as prospective study of smokers and non-smokers followed over time, or a detailed questionnaire of smokers and HTP users. They do not show one trend is casually linked to the other, just that the trends occurred at the same time on a national level.
- They do not consider e-cigarette trends, and in fact state that Japan "...prohibits the marketing of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)...". Hence, it only considers the impact of HTP use in a country where HTPs are marketed but e-cigarettes are not. This limits the applicability to most countries, including New Zealand.
- Data used for this study come from the Tobacco Institute of Japan and Philip Morris International.

Ramstrom et al 2016 *Patterns of Smoking and Snus Use in Sweden: Implications for Public Health* . <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5129320/pdf/ijerph-13-01110.pdf>

- ‘snus’ are a non-combustible, lower-toxicity (compared to regular tobacco cigarettes), oral tobacco product. This product was developed in Sweden in the 1970s by the then government-owned tobacco company, in the context of high smoking rates, to provide a less harmful alternative to tobacco cigarettes. Snus accounts for a substantial proportion of the tobacco market there, but is not a product widely used outside of Sweden.
- The paper reports that snu users are less likely to become smokers than non-snu users, and that smokers who also use snus, tend to quit using regular tobacco cigarettes. This study is more than simply a report of a correlation of trends in smoking, but does involve a relatively detailed survey of people and their smoking habits.
- The paper states that snus are not associated with a mortality risk, except for acute myocardial infarction risk. Evidence has grown since 2016. Subsequent studies have shown that snus are associated with around a 30% increased all-cause mortality risk and a similar increased risk of cardiovascular-related death. [Swedish snus use is associated with mortality: a pooled analysis of eight prospective studies | International Journal of Epidemiology | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)
- It is unknown if snus or any other alternative to tobacco cigarettes would have the same impact on a population, or even if the availability of alternatives leads to lower smoking rates. Smoking rates were declining in many countries prior to the availability of e-cigarettes or other products. The lower smoking rates in Sweden or elsewhere could also be due to other public health actions occurring at the same time, e.g., anti-smoking campaigns, greater awareness, increases in cost of tobacco products, changes in public attitudes to smoking etc.

Levy et al 2022 A Decision-Theoretic Public Health Framework for Heated Tobacco and Nicotine Vaping Products <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9602493/pdf/ijerph-19-13431.pdf>

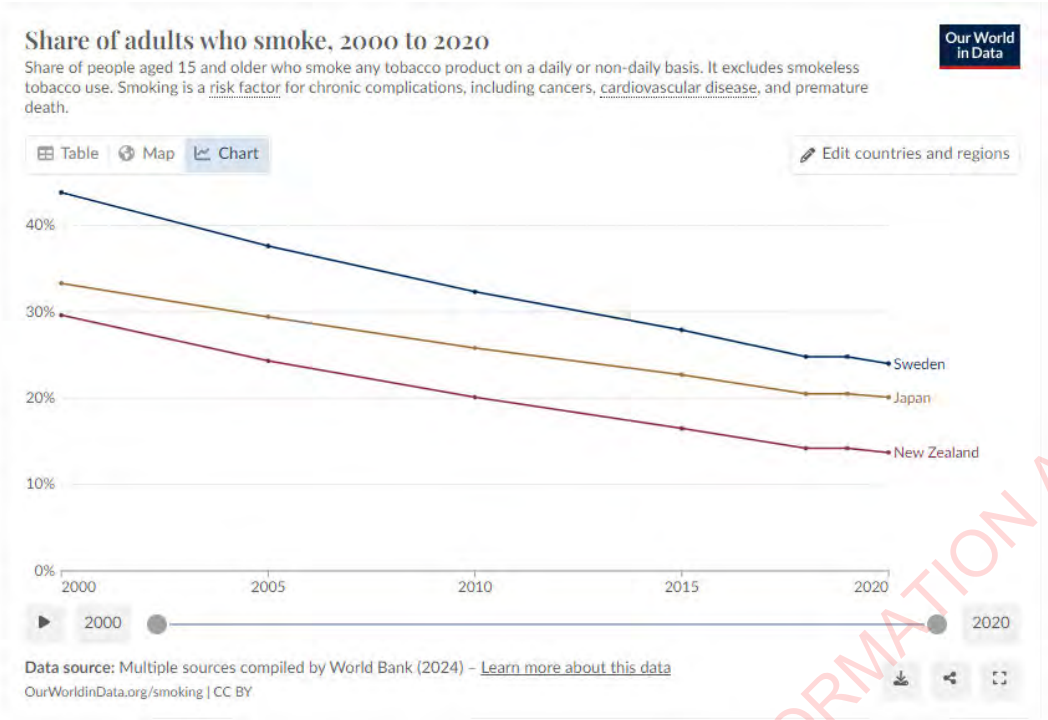
- This paper proposed a framework for how HTPs, e-cigarettes and other non-tobacco cigarette products might be regulated and rolled-out with the overall goal of reducing tobacco smoking rates. It is proposed policy road map, but does not provide evidence that this framework would be successful, or evidence on the harms of smoking, smoking cessation efficacy, or other related issues.

Beaglehole et al 2014 Harnessing tobacco harm reduction [Harnessing tobacco harm reduction - ScienceDirect](#)

- [I've updated from my previous email below with changes in red]
- The article is an opinion piece from 2014, albeit in a highly respected journal (Lancet). An **opinion piece is meant to be backed up by evidence, but it isn't aiming to be a complete or rigorous evidence review**, but it is supposed to be more of a 'reasonable' position on the data, argued from a particular point of view.
- The main focus is to argue that the WHO (particularly the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)) should more strongly emphasise harm reduction for smoking addiction. There is reasonable evidence that vaping or e-cigarettes may help with smoking cessation/quitting smoking, but **no evidence for other products such as snus (tobacco and non-tobacco) or heated tobacco products (HTPs) are effective for smoking cessation.**
- The first issue is the **author conflates e-cigarettes with tobacco products** like snus and heated tobacco products --lumping them all together as "novel nicotine products" or harm reduction devices -- with no justification. There is no evidence that snus or

HTPs are used or effective for smoking cessation, whereas there are several studies evaluating e-cigarettes.

- The second issue is that the **evidence that the author cites for HTPs and snus and smoking rates, is very weak, simply citing two countries with low smoking rates who also use those products** (Japan, Sweden). This is known in epidemiology as the ‘ecological fallacy’, where two characteristics from a population of people are said to be causally related without any evidence that they are related. As we know, correlation is not causation, so a claim such as ‘a country has high snu use and low smoking rates, therefore snus may help people quit smoking’ needs to be evaluated with a study designed to evaluate that question, and cannot be inferred from two separate trends in the data.
- Sweden has a ‘long tradition’ of snu use, and declining smoking rates, with the author implying that snus have contributed to that decline. This is not very likely, especially if snu use has remained prevalent over that time period, and there are no studies evaluating snus as a smoking cessation tool. **The study observes that in Sweden individuals that start using snus, tend to stay using snus, and that smokers will often switch to snus, and many people use neither. However, this doesn’t provide evidence that snus are used as a smoking cessation tool, only that in a country where both are available, the use of one or other or both are prevalent, and one is associated with less harm.** The Public health Agency of Sweden explicitly (cited by the author) also states “*Nicotine snus and e-cigarettes are not smoking cessation drugs*” and that “*Terms such as vape, tobacco-free snus and white snus can make them appear less harmful, but nicotine’s toxic and addictive properties can negatively affect health.*” [Nicotine products and health risks — Public Health Agency of Sweden \(folkhalsomyndigheten.se\)](https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/en/publikationer/publicationer/2019-01-16-nicotine-products-and-health-risks)
- In addition, an analysis of 8 studies have found that **snu use has been associated with increased all-cause mortality in Sweden**: snu users had a 28% higher mortality risk compared to never-smokers, primarily due to higher risk of cardiovascular disease. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7825961/>
- The author also cites Japan having uptake of HTPs and attributes a link to lowering smoking rates. The **study cited for the claim that HTPs have helped to lower smoking rates in Japan (Cummings et al) is provided by tobacco companies**: “Data used for this study come from the Tobacco Institute of Japan and Philip Morris International”.
- There is no evidence linking HTPs to declining smoking rates, and in fact smoking rates in Sweden, Japan, and New Zealand have all declined at about the same rate, with New Zealand having the lowest smoking rate, without prevalent snu, HTP or use of other similar products. <https://ourworldindata.org/smoking>. See below.
- The author also claims that not including nicotine products as part of harm reduction plans would ‘favour’ cigarette use and ‘may discourage’ vaping, without evidence for those claims.



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From: Sonya Toleafoa <sonya.toleafoa@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Wed Oct 16 2024 13:32:27 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong
<joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

Hi Josh is there specific date bracket that they are wanting communications from?

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 12:26 PM
To: Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>; Emma Hindson
<Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

For clarity, I think the requestor is referring to the MO releasing its independent advice on heated tobacco: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/529782/casey-costello-releases-independent-advice-on-heated-tobacco>

Josh

From: Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 12:24 PM
To: Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

Looks like 4 November it should be all the way through sign out 😊
Is that doable for you?

Nga mihi
S

From: Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 12:23 PM
To: Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

Kia ora Sonya- is there a timeframe specified for this. These is possible some internal communications. I will try and find.

Emma Hindson (she/her)
Acting Manager
Public Health Policy and Regulation, Ope Atarau
emma.hindson@health.govt.nz

Public Health Agency
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street
Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 11:30 AM
To: Emma Hindson <Emma.Hindson@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

Talofa Emma,

Please see OIA request highlighted below. Do we have any communications we can provide Josh and the team?

Dear Ministry of Health,

I am writing to formally request all communications related to the independent advice referenced and released to the media by the Associate Minister of Health concerning the excise reduction for heated tobacco products.

This request encompasses communications within the Ministry as well as between the Associate Minister and her office and the Ministry, including between Ministry executives and staff and the Minister, political staff and departmental private secretaries. Communications pertaining to articles that were identified but not released should also be included.

To clarify, "communications" refers to all forms of electronic and written correspondence, including but not limited to emails, text messages, messaging apps (such as Teams, WhatsApp, Signal, Slack, and Telegram), and handwritten notes (such as notebooks, meeting minutes, or post-it notes).

Yours faithfully,

P Robins

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 11:25 AM
To: Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

Morning Sonya,

Hope you're well.

Just wondering if there's any update on the below OIA? Sing out if you need a hand with anything.

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong

Advisor | OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga

Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora

E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz

L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street

-

From: Public Health Agency ODDG <PHA-ODDG@health.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 10:22 AM

To: Sonya Toleafoa <Sonya.Toleafoa@health.govt.nz>

Cc: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

Kia ora Sonya,

Please see OIA on HTPs for response here: [Response due 4 November 2024](#)

Input is only required in the yellow highlighted parts (see below email thread), with the remaining parts transferred to Minister Costello's office.

Due date to the requestor is 4 November.

Ngā mihi

Brooklyn Yagmich (she/her)

Senior Advisor

Office of the Deputy Director-General

Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

Brooklyn.Yagmich@health.govt.nz

Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Public Health Agency ODDG <pha-oddg@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Mon Oct 07 2024 10:17:05 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong
<joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

Out of scope

Ngā mihi

Brooklyn Yagmich (she/her)

Senior Advisor
Office of the Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
Brooklyn.Yagmich@health.govt.nz
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 9:59 AM
To: Public Health Agency ODDG <PHA-ODDG@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

The yellow highlighted parts should be at the bottom of the email chain which has the originally request, but here's a snip of it in case there's some IT issue:

Josh

From: Public Health Agency ODDG <PHA-ODDG@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 9:55 AM
To: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

Kia ora Josh,

Sorry I can't see the yellow highlighted parts? Can you please show me?

Ngā mihi

Brooklyn Yagmich (she/her)

Senior Advisor
Office of the Deputy Director-General
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui
Brooklyn.Yagmich@health.govt.nz
Manatū Hauora, 133 Molesworth Street Thorndon, Wellington 6011

From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 9:40 AM
To: Public Health Agency ODDG <PHA-ODDG@health.govt.nz>
Subject: OIA H2024053059 - DUE 4 November 2024 (HTPs) CRM:0121128

Kia ora PHA,

We have received the below OIA request for the Ministry's communications regarding HTPs.

Can you please advise if you are able to assist?

Input is only required in the yellow highlighted parts, with the remaining parts transferred to Minister Costello's office.

The sharepoint link can be found here: [Response due 4 November 2024](#)

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong

Advisor | OIA Services
Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga
Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora
E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz
L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street

From: P Robins <fyi-request-28646-6a17eb9b@requests.fyi.org.nz>
Sent: Friday, 4 October 2024 08:15
To: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Official Information request - Communications relating to excise reduction for heated tobacco products

Dear Ministry of Health,

I am writing to formally request all communications related to the independent advice referenced and released to the media by the Associate Minister of Health concerning the excise reduction for heated tobacco products.

This request encompasses communications within the Ministry as well as between the Associate Minister and her office and the Ministry, **including between Ministry executives** and staff and the Minister, political staff and departmental private secretaries. Communications pertaining to articles that were identified but not released should also be included.

To clarify, "communications" refers to all forms of electronic and written correspondence, including but not limited to emails, text messages, messaging apps (such as Teams, WhatsApp, Signal, Slack, and Telegram), and handwritten notes (such as notebooks, meeting minutes, or post-it notes).

Yours faithfully,
P Robins

From: Ripine Tito <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Tina Tunui <Tina.Tunui@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 Communications relating to excise reduction for heated tobacco products

Thanks Josh

Ripine (Pine) Tito
Health Private Secretary | Office of Hon Casey Costello

s 9(2)(a) | DDI: 04 817 8875 | E: Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz

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From: Josh Wong <Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 11:38 AM
To: Ripine Tito <Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Tina Tunui <Tina.Tunui@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 Communications relating to excise reduction for heated tobacco products

Kia ora Pine,

Please find attached a partial transfer letter sent to the requestor.

Josh

From: OIA Requests
Sent: Monday, 7 October 2024 11:36
To: P Robins <fyi-request-28646-6a17eb9b@requests.fyi.org.nz>
Subject: Partial transfer of your request for official information, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0121128

Kia ora P Robins,

Please find attached a partial transfer of your request for official information.

Ngā mihi

OIA Services Team
Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

[Ministry of Health information releases](#)
[Unite against COVID-19](#)

From: Alex Fuller <alexandra.fuller@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Mon Oct 07 2024 09:38:39 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong
<joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: Partial Transfer Letter for review/sign off, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0141358

Thanks Josh signed in SP

From: Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Mon Oct 07 2024 09:27:37 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Alex Fuller <alexandra.fuller@health.govt.nz>; Alex Fuller
<alexandra.fuller@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: Partial Transfer Letter for review/sign off, ref: H2024053059 CRM:0141358

Kia ora Alex,

Please see a partial transfer letter for your review/sign off: [H2024053059 Partial Transfer Letter.docx](#)

Ngā mihi

Josh Wong

Advisor | OIA Services

Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga

Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora

E: Joshua.Wong@health.govt.nz

L1 North, Yellow, 133 Molesworth Street

-

From: Ripine Tito <ripline.tito@parliament.govt.nz>;
Received: Fri Oct 04 2024 14:24:42 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>; OIA <oiagr@health.govt.nz>;
Cc: Tina Tunui <tina.tunui@parliament.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: RE: OIA H2024053059 Communications relating to excise reduction for heated tobacco products

Kia ora Sharon,

Yes happy to accept

Thanks
Pine

Ripine (Pine) Tito

Health Private Secretary | Office of Hon Casey Costello

s 9(2)(a) | DDI: 04 817 8875 | E: Ripine.Tito@parliament.govt.nz

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From: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>;
Received: Fri Oct 04 2024 14:22:30 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: Ripine Tito <ripline.tito@parliament.govt.nz>;
Cc: Tina Tunui <tina.tunui@parliament.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>; Josh Wong <joshua.wong@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: OIA H2024053059 Communications relating to excise reduction for heated tobacco products

Kia ora team,

Can you accept partial transfer of the highlighted below? MOH will keep the internal comms bit.

I am writing to formally request all communications related to the independent advice referenced and released to the media by the Associate Minister of Health concerning the excise reduction for heated tobacco products.

This request encompasses communications within the Ministry as well as between the Associate Minister and her office and the Ministry, including between Ministry executives and staff and the Minister, political staff and departmental private secretaries. Communications pertaining to articles that were identified but not released should also be included.

Ngā mihi

Sharon

OIA Services Team

Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health

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From: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 4 October 2024 10:38
To: P Robins <fyi-request-28646-6a17eb9b@requests.fyi.org.nz>
Subject: Acknowledgement of your request for official information (ref: H2024053059)
CRM:0141358

Kia ora,

Thank you for your request for official information. The reference number for your request is: **H2024053059**.

As required under the Official Information Act 1982, the Ministry of Health-Manatū Hauora will endeavour to respond to your request no later than 20 working days after the day your request was received. If you'd like to calculate the timeframe, you can use the Ombudsman's online calculator here: <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>

If you have any queries related to this request, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Ngā mihi

OIA Services Team



[Ministry of Health information releases](#)

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From: P Robins <fyi-request-28646-6a17eb9b@requests.fyi.org.nz>;
Received: Fri Oct 04 2024 08:15:55 GMT+1300 (New Zealand Daylight Time)
To: OIA Requests <oiagr@health.govt.nz>; OIA <oiagr@health.govt.nz>;
Subject: Official Information request - Communications relating to excise reduction for heated tobacco products

Dear Ministry of Health,

I am writing to formally request all communications related to the independent advice referenced and released to the media by the Associate Minister of Health concerning the excise reduction for heated tobacco products.

This request encompasses communications within the Ministry as well as between the Associate Minister and her office and the Ministry, including between Ministry executives and staff and the Minister, political staff and departmental private secretaries. Communications pertaining to articles that were identified but not released should also be included.

To clarify, "communications" refers to all forms of electronic and written correspondence, including but not limited to emails, text messages, messaging apps (such as Teams, WhatsApp, Signal, Slack, and Telegram), and handwritten notes (such as notebooks, meeting minutes, or post-it notes).

Yours faithfully,

P Robins

This is an Official Information request made via the FYI website.

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
fyi-request-28646-6a17eb9b@requests.fyi.org.nz

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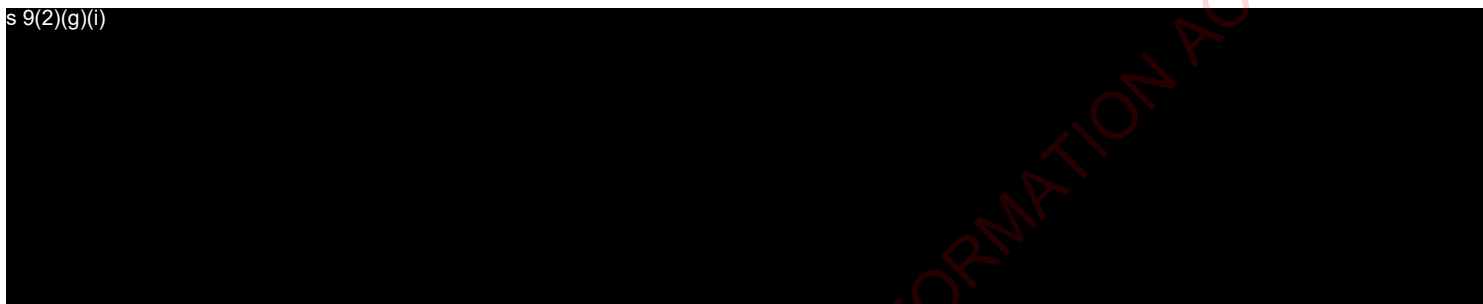
From: Brian Watson <Brian.Watson@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: 04 November 2024 13:49
To: Jo Waugh <Jo.Waugh@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Diana Sarfati <Diana.Sarfati@health.govt.nz>; Andrew Old <Andrew.Old@health.govt.nz>; Sarah Turner <Sarah.Turner@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Minister Costello

Hi all

I'm not what sure what has been relayed to you about the Minister's request, so just a heads up

The Minister has been contacted for an interview about the attached OIA today. This is the first time the Advisors and Minister have seen the response.

s 9(2)(g)(i)



See you later.

Cheers
Brian

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Brian Watson
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 1:17 PM
To: Brian Watson; jo.waugh@health.govt.nz
Cc: Diana Sarfati; Andrew Old; Sarah Turner
Subject: Meeting with Minister Costello
When: Monday, 4 November 2024 3:15 PM-4:00 PM (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.
Where: Parliament House 2.053

Hey Jo

As discussed, Teams link for Andrew

Cheers
Brian

s 9(2)(k)



