

20 December 2024

Alan Riley
Via email: fyi-request-29165-5531abce@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Alan

Request for information: Māori Advisory Committee

Thank you for your request dated 13 November under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information relating to the disestablishment of the Māori Advisory Committee. You requested:

1. *Information/papers which led to disestablishment (including papers to the Board and minutes of meetings in which a decision was made to disestablish)*
2. *Correspondence between Pharmac and the Committee relating to disestablishment.*
3. *Correspondence between any Pharmac staff and any Pharmac board members regarding potential and/or actual disestablishment decision.*

On 10 December 2024, your request was extended by eight working days as the consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that a proper response to the request could not reasonably have been made within the original time limit. Please find attached the documents and emails which fall within the scope of your request. Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals.
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

The notification of the disestablishment was via an online meeting on 18 October 2024, followed by a formal letter to the Co-chairs. The meeting was attended by Paula Bennett, Talia Anderson-Town, Rebecca Mason, Eugene Berryman-Kam, Trevor Simpson, and Nicola Ngawati. No minutes were taken for this meeting.

Please note that [Appendix Two](#) of the document titled Memorandum for Pharmac Board Meeting 27 August 2024 is publicly available on the Ministry of Health's website. Also, Pharmac proactively releases its [Board Minutes](#) on its website. Please refer to the October 2024 and out-of-cycle October 2024 documents which discuss the Māori Advisory Committee. These three documents have been refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available.

In making our decision, we have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding that information.

We trust that this information answers your queries. Please note, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about our response to your OIA, under section 28(3) of the OIA. Details of [how to make a complaint](#) are on the Ombudsman's website.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Oliver Whitehead
Team Leader, Government Services
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