



Office of Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman

Minister of Health
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member of Parliament for Northcote

10 DEC 2015

Ms Belinda Hodson
fyi-request-3252-33cba75b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201504966

Dear Ms Hodson

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2015 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested:

1. any information held about the effect of TPPA on the cost and availability of unsubsidised medicines to New Zealanders
2. any information held about the effect of TPPA on the cost and availability of bio-identical hormones and Natural Dessicated Thyroid Extracts currently compounded by companies like Pharmaceuticals Compounding NZ Limited.

On 17 November 2015, the Minister's office wrote to you requesting you provide a time period for your request as the information you requested covered a large quantity of information and would require substantial research and collation. You refined your request to cover the time period from 1 January 2012 to 16 October 2015.

The first part of your request relating to unsubsidised medicines is still very broad in terms of both the information requested and the timeframe. It would require substantial research and collation to make the relevant information available and is therefore refused under 18(f) of the Act. The Minister's office is satisfied that the request cannot be managed by an extension of time or charging a fee, and has consulted with you in accordance with section 18B about whether the request could be made in a form that did not require substantial collation and research.

In relation to the second part of your request on bio-identical hormones and Natural Desiccated Thyroid Extracts (NDTs), it is unlikely that the TPP would have any impact on their cost and availability. Medsafe has not approved for marketing in New Zealand any products containing an NDT nor any bio-identical hormones currently compounded by companies like Pharmaceuticals Compounding NZ Limited. PHARMAC has also advised that none of these products currently compounded by companies like Pharmaceuticals Compounding NZ Limited are listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule. Therefore the Minister's office has not identified any information held that is relevant in relation to these products and I am declining this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act.

Please note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has made detailed information about the outcomes of the TPP publicly available, including fact sheets covering the effects on the intellectual property treatment of pharmaceuticals and on PHARMAC, which might be of interest to you (see http://www.tpp.mfat.govt.nz/#fact_sheets). The National Interest Analysis for TPP will also be released publicly soon. This will set out in detail the advantages and disadvantages for New Zealand of entering TPP, including the health-related impacts.

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision in response to your request. Information about making a complaint is on the website of the Office of the Ombudsman (www.ombudsman.parliament.nz). You can also contact the Office on freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McCardle', written in a cursive style.

Peter McCardle
Senior Ministerial Advisor
Office of Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman