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Mr Robert Harrison
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Ref: H201603030

Dear Mr Harrison

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your email of 23 July 2016 requesting information from the Minister of Health regarding changes to the licensing of pharmacies in New Zealand under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested:

- a) All advice (including cabinet papers, briefings, draft bills, discussion documents, costings etc) relating to the proposed change to pharmacy ownership.
- b) All advice (including cabinet papers, briefings, draft bills, discussion documents, costings etc) explaining the rationale of "fit and proper persons" owning pharmacies.
- c) All documentation received, so far, as at 22 July 2016, from all interested parties responding to the potential changes and Government responses to these.

As the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) holds this information, it is appropriate that we respond to your request. We have interpreted your request as relating to the recently proposed changes to pharmacy licencing agreed by Cabinet. Consequently, your response includes relevant documents from January 2015 to the present.

Many of the Cabinet papers and supporting documents are now publicly available on the Ministry's website. You can find them by searching: <http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/therapeutic-products-regulatory-regime>.

You may also be interested in this link, a summary that covers correspondence around licensing: <http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/pharmacy-action-plan-2016-2020-analysis-submissions>. While technically outside the scope of your request, we have included the Ministry's response to requests for information relating to these proposed changes.

The Ministry has identified the following documents within the scope of your request. These are itemised in the table below. Where appropriate, the grounds used for withholding information under the Act are stated.

Document	Date	Redactions
Email Questions for Jonathan Coleman re Therapeutic Products Bill Response document	9 May 2016	Released in full
Ministerial email Deregulation of Pharmacy	31 May 2016	Redactions made under s9(2)(a)
Ministerial response to Deregulation of Pharmacy	30 June 2016	Redactions made under s9(2)(a)
Ministerial email Amendment of the Medicines Act of 1981	30 June 2016	Redactions made under s9(2)(a)
Ministerial response to Amendment of the Medicines Act of 1981	19 July 2016	Redactions made under s9(2)(a)
Discussion Document Therapeutic Products Regulation – Pharmacy Licensing	January 2016	Released in full
Health Report 20160264 Therapeutic Products Regulation: Draft Cabinet Paper Appendix draft Cabinet paper Therapeutic Products Regulation: further policy approvals	11 March 2016	Redactions made under s9(2)(f)(iv)
Health Report 20151871 Draft Therapeutic Products Regulation Cabinet papers for your review Appendix - draft Cabinet paper Therapeutic Products Regulation Paper 1: Context and Overview Appendix – draft Cabinet paper Therapeutic Products Regulation Paper 2: Proposals for a Therapeutic Products Bill	5 November 2015	Released in full
Health Report 20151082 Therapeutic Products Regulatory Regime: Policy related to pharmacies	24 July 2015	Released in full
Health Report 20150290 Therapeutic Products Regulatory Regime: overview Appendix titled Therapeutic Products Regulatory Regime – Desirable Features and Mechanisms	2 April 2015	Released in full

The Ministry has redacted information under s9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. In this case, these are the names of members of the public who have written to the Minister regarding pharmacy changes. Information has also been redacted under s9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials.

I trust that this information fulfils your request.

Yours sincerely

Hamiora Bowkett
Chief Strategy and Policy Officer
Strategy and Policy

Encl: