

31 January 2017

Dear Dr Harrison,

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Thank you for your request dated 25 November 2016 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information relating to the management of Stelazine (trifluoperazine) supply. You asked for:

- information, documentation, costings, advice sought and provided, correspondence between suppliers, manufacturers, pharmacy wholesalers, regarding the management of supply of Stelazine (trifluoperazine); and
- all documentation and advice received/sought from patients, customers, MPs, pharmacists/pharmacies, doctors, nurses/all health care professionals regarding the supply of Stelazine (trifluoperazine) in recent times.

Please find information covered by your request attached. I understand that some of the enquires were resolved over the phone.

In our response, we have redacted a small amount of information from the documents as we consider this necessary to:

- protect the privacy of natural persons (section 9(2)(a));
- protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied (section 9(2)(ba)(i));
- protect information where the making available of the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (section 9(2)(b)(ii));
- enable PHARMAC to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (section 9(2)(i)); and
- enable PHARMAC to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations, including commercial negotiations (section 9(2)(j)).

As required under the OIA, we also considered whether, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information was outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make this information available – and decided it was not. Please note you have the right, by way of complaint under section 28(3) of the OIA to an Ombudsman, to seek an investigation and review of our decision.

PHARMAC takes medicine supply very seriously. Unfortunately, supply issues are a reality of pharmaceutical markets and an ongoing international issue. We maintain good communication with suppliers about supply challenges, and have a number of contractual and procedural mechanisms in place to incentivise secure supply and, when required, professionally manage supply risks (and, when necessary, introduce alternative supply).

As noted in our extension letter to you in December, trifluoperazine hydrochloride tablets will be delisted from the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 July 2017.

I trust that these documents are what you were after. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact us again. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Yours sincerely

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

**Peter Alsop**  
Director, Engagement and Implementation