

24 October 2018

**Our Ref: #C27736**

By email: [fyi-request-8608-bb1c56c2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-8608-bb1c56c2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Miles,

**Official Information request**

On 4 September 2018, you made a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your request stated:

*In an email to Reubhan Swann on the 6th of June 2018, Kevin Lampen-Smith provided bullet points outlining the process the REA had followed from 2017 to 2018 regarding meth residues in property.*

*1/ Please provide copies of reports, written communications, including emails and letters, copies of meeting minutes, participant notes, Board memos and briefing papers, that relate to the work outlined in the process overview (and any communications that took place prior to this), including but not limited to ESR, HNZ, Standards NZ, Drug Foundation of NZ, Anne Beardsley (sic as is spelt Bardsley) and the referenced 'other scientists'*

*2/ Please provide details of the "number of other scientists" referenced in the second dot point*

*3/ Please provide details of the reports, written communications, including emails and letters, copies of meeting minutes, participant notes, Board memos and briefing papers in respect to meth residues in property sent and received since this email of 6th of June 2018*

On 21 September 2018, I had a discussion with you about clarifying the scope of your request. Following that I emailed you a summary of our conversation and your reframed information request, which you agreed with. I have attached that email chain to the cover email for reference, but in summary your reframed request is for:

1. Copies of key documents (principally communications, but also meeting notes, advice, proposals and other documents) relating to the development of the approach to methamphetamine residue in housing taken in the REA's 7 June 2018 media release (based on the process set out in the 6 June email to Reubhan Swann but including anything from before that process too).
2. Details of the "number of other scientists" referred to in the 6 June email to Reubhan Swann.
3. Copies of key documents relating to any further development in approach to methamphetamine residue in housing post 6 June 2018.

Additionally, in terms of parts 1 and 3 of this request, you clarified that you wanted any communications from major real estate agency brands containing those brands' views on the matter of methamphetamine residue in housing, as well as internal REA communications relating to the development of the 7 June media release itself. You also indicated you were specifically interested in communications with Ross Bell of the NZ Drug Foundation.



On 1 October 2018, we extended the deadline for responding to 24 October 2018.

### **Information being released**

#### *Parts 1 and 3*

Part of the information you have requested can be accessed through the HomeDrive link in the cover email of this letter. That information has been compiled into a pdf document and put into date order. Please note that the HomeDrive link will expire within 30 days, so please download the information from the link before then.

You will note that some information in the released documents has been redacted. Please refer to the table appended to the end of this letter for a list of the pages that have redactions, and the reasons for those redactions.

Please note that we have decided to withhold some documents in their entirety under section 9(2)(h) of the Act, as the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.

In terms of communications with Ross Bell, while Kevin Lampen-Smith has met with Ross Bell on one or two occasions, there is no correspondence or documents relating to these meetings. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is declined under section 18(g) of the Act, that the information requested is not held by the REA.

#### *Part 2*

Our records indicate that the "other scientists" that Kevin Lampen-Smith references as individuals that the REA has had discussions with on the issue of methamphetamine residue in housing are:

- Leo Schep, of the University of Otago
- Vanessa Caldwell, of Matua Raki
- Stewart Jessamine, of the Ministry of Health

### **Next steps**

If you wish to discuss this response, please contact me by phone on 04 471 8941, or by email at [Izaac.sugrue@rea.govt.nz](mailto:Izaac.sugrue@rea.govt.nz).

Please note that you have the right to make a complaint, in respect of this response, to the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz). You may make the complaint online at that web address, by email at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz), or in writing to the following address:

The Ombudsman  
PO Box 10152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Izaak Sugrue  
**Solicitor**

APPENDIX 1: REDACTIONS TO RELEASED DOCUMENTS

Pages	Reason for redaction
44, 52, 82, 101, 111, 114, 116, 117, 120, 123, 127, 130, 133, 134, 137, 139, 140, 143, 145, 148, 150, 152, 155, 158, 162, 166, 168, 169, 172, 175, 177, 180, 184, 193, 203, 236, 238, 247-249, 252, 253, 299, 308, 309, 314, 317, 321, 324-326, 328, 329, 335, 336, 338, 339, 364, 365, 371, 372, 374, 376, 398, 400, 402, 404, 412, 414, 415, 515-518, 520, 522, 537, 545, 547, 587-590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 604, 606, 614, 624, 626-628, 630, 631, 633, 636, 638, 639, 641, 642, 644-646, 648, 649, 651, 652, 656, 657, 660, 662, 663, 665, 666, 669, 708, 709, 716, 724, 725, 727, 733-735, 737, 749, 751, 753- 756, 758, 761, 771, 772, 774, 778, 781-785, 787-789, 793, 796, 833, 835, 840-843, 845, 848, 849, 852, 855, 859, 866, 872, 874, 877-881, 884, 885, 887, 888, 890, 891.	<p>Section 9(2)(a): The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.</p>
383, 384, 478, 479.	<p>Section 9(2)(c): The withholding of the information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public.</p>
504-513, 668, 876.	<p>The information is not relevant to the request.</p>