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New Zealand

2 August 2024

Wendy McGuinness

By email: wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org

Ref: H2024047249

Tēnā koe Wendy

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 24 July 2024 for information regarding recommendations referred to in your previous response regarding the National Reserve Supply (ref H202445080). You requested:

“Question 1: We note that the terms of reference refers to recommendations (i.e. that the National Reserve Supply Technical Advisory Group would be providing a summary of recommendations). Can you provide us a copy of those recommendations?”

The recommendations of the National Reserve Supply Technical Advisory Group detail the composition, quantities, and storage of national reserve supplies. Due to a combination of commercial and national security sensitivities, this precludes us from providing more specific information. However, all relevant stakeholders will be communicated with as part of considering the recommendations and determining next steps.

As such a copy of these recommendations are withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a) as its release would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; and
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information.

Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing information and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

In addition, I can advise you that the review of the composition of the national reserve supply used information from the COVID-19 pandemic to determine specific items and quantities needed. I would like to refer you to our previous correspondence with you on 18 July 2024, Ref: H2024045080, in which a list of national supply items was provided.

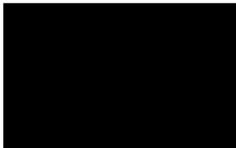
I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on:

[REDACTED]

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Director Emergency Management
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui