MANATŪ HAUORA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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12 September 2022

[redacted]

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 (the Ministry) on 18 July 2022 for information relating to COVID-19 treatments. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

> *The reasons why Medsafe has not yet given full approval or even provisional Consent for Veklury including any advice or decision papers identifying any concerns or information gaps about Veklury*
>
> *copies of analysis and advice about the success of Veklury including what success means including any reports to or from Pharmac, Medsafe, ministers and/ or cabinet*
>
> *all communications with the sponsor of Veklury including about it's safety, effectiveness, price and/ or indemnities for its use*
>
> *any international research used in NZ to support the use of Veklury on NZ.*

Please be advised that the Veklury application is currently under evaluation. As such, information relating to the application is withheld in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii) where its release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Further information relating to the Veklury application is available here: www.medsafe.govt.nz/regulatory/ProductDetail.asp?ID=22825.

> *research or assessment of early treatment protocols including Vit D, Ivermectin, Zinc*

Please note Manatū Hauora does not conduct scientific research or studies. Please refer to online scientific studies for further information: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/

> *Please also provide the equivalent information for other new medicines approved for treatment of Covid including Paxlovid and Lagevrio*

Paxlovid and Lagevrio both have Medsafe consent. Please refer to the Medsafe website for further information: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/treatment-applications.asp.

Communications between Medsafe and the applicant for these products is withheld in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii).

On 6 September 2022, you were contacted and asked to refine the part of your request for analysis and advice to formal correspondence only. Manatū Hauora has not received a response from you to date. As such, this part of your request for information is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it would require a substantial amount of collation to provide the information you have requested. I have considered whether charging or extending the time to compile the information would enable us to respond. However, I do not believe it is in the public interest to do so. The Ministry remains open to responding to a manageable request in the future.

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.

Jan Torres
Acting Manager, OIA Services
Government and Executive Services