



11 July 2025

s 9(2)(a)



Official information request

Our ref: R001064

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received on 14 June 2025. You requested, in relation to increasing prescription lengths to 12 months¹ (the policy):

1. **Advice to Ministers** (including, but not limited to, Cabinet and Cabinet Committee papers and departmental documents such as RIS) on the Policy.
2. **Any reviews and internal advice** undertaken to inform the Policy, whether or not the review was or is intended to act as advice to Ministers.
3. **The number of submissions from the public** which informed the Policy, also noting:
 - o How many submissions were **made by** an individual, organisation, individual representing an organisation, or an organisation representing other organisations, respectively; and
 - o How many submissions were **made through** the "red tape hotline", meetings with the Ministry, written correspondence with the Ministry, meetings with Ministers, and written correspondence with Ministers.
 - o This information does not need to specify, for example, how many submissions were made by organisations through the red tape hotline.

*I would like these documents from the period since the **formation of the current government***

Item one

The Ministry for Regulation (the Ministry) did not provide any advice to Ministers on increasing prescription lengths.

¹ <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/12-month-prescriptions-put-money-patients%20%99-pockets>

Item two

As part of departmental consultation, the Ministry received a draft version of a Cabinet paper proposing to increase the period of supply limit for all prescription medicines from 3 months to 12 months to improve access. We subsequently asked to review the draft Regulatory Impact Statement to ascertain whether the proposal may create risk and have market implications. We had no comment as our concerns were addressed in the material.

Item three

The Ministry received four submissions through the red tape online portal relating to prescription length (including one duplicated submission). Our Regulatory Response Team referred two of these to the Ministry of Health for their consideration in December 2024, who notified those submitters that the Government was considering options for changes to prescriptions. One submission was treated as a duplicate of one that had already been referred to the Ministry of Health. The remaining submission was received on 29 April 2025, following the announcement of the changes.

We are unable to confirm whether the information provided to the Ministry of Health directly informed the decision to change the length of prescriptions as this is a matter for the Ministry of Health, who I understand you have already contacted to request this information.

Right of review

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact hello@regulation.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we may publish this response (with your details removed) on the Ministry for Regulation website.

Ngā mihi

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Aisling Risdon

Head of Ministerial Services
Ministry for Regulation