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16 November 2023

Oliver Bryan

By email: oliver@taxpayers.org.nz

Ref: H2023032622

Tēnā koe Oliver,

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 26 October 2023 for:

“This is a request for official information under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to the following article: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/497227/ministry-of-health-admits-incorrectly-threatening-vape-retailers>

How much was spent on legal fees/staff time and other costs for fighting/preparing for this court case?”

The total payment made to Crown Law relating to ALT New Zealand and Others versus Director-General of Health is \$249,267.50. This was from 27 March 2023 until 7 November 2023. Regarding staff time and other costs associated with the court case, Manatū Hauora does not hold this information, therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

Please note, our in-house solicitors provide legal advice across the organisation, including litigation when it arises. This is standard work practice undertaken by the Ministry’s legal team as part of their business-as-usual process. Therefore, Manatū Hauora does not hold details for the cost of in-house legal resources for specific litigation.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Phil Knipe
Chief Legal Advisor
Government and Executive Services | Te Pou Whakatere Kāwanatanga