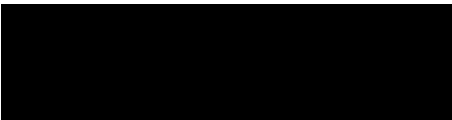


24 February 2020



By email only: 

Dear 

Official Information Act #19.133 - Pharmacy Prescription Charges

1. We refer to your request received on 20 February 2020 for a copy of the advice provided by the Commerce Commission (Commission) to the New Zealand District Health Boards (DHBs) in relation to pharmacies and free prescriptions.
2. We have treated this as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Our response

3. The Commission has not provided advice to the DHBs in relation to pharmacies and free prescriptions.
4. In 2014, the Commission issued a warning to all DHBs, pharmacies and the Pharmacy Guild in relation to 'no discounting' clauses in the 2012 Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (CPSA), which we considered were likely to have breached section 27 of the Commerce Act 1986.¹
5. You can find further information about the warning on our website here:
<https://comcom.govt.nz/news-and-media/media-releases/2014/commission-issues-warning-over-no-discounting-clause>.
6. You can find copies of the warnings in the Case Register on our website here:
 - 6.1 DHBs: <https://comcom.govt.nz/case-register/case-register-entries/district-health-boards-dhbs>

¹ You can access the Commerce Act 1986 here:
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1986/0005/latest/DLM87623.html>

- 6.2 Pharmacies: <https://comcom.govt.nz/case-register/case-register-entries/pharmacies>
- 6.3 Pharmacy Guild: <https://comcom.govt.nz/case-register/case-register-entries/pharmacy-guild-of-new-zealand-incorporated>
- 7. Please note the Commission will be publishing this response to your request in the Official Information Act register on our website.² Your personal details will be redacted from the published response.
- 8. Please do not hesitate to contact us at oiia@comcom.govt.nz if you have any questions about this request.

Yours sincerely

Mary Sheppard

Mary Sheppard
OIA Coordinator

² <https://comcom.govt.nz/about-us/requesting-official-information/oiia-register>