

11 September 2019



Dear 

Official Information Act #19.037 - GTI-Net Scheme

1. We refer to your request received on 5 September 2019 for information about whether the Commerce Commission (Commission) is aware of the GTI-Net scheme.
2. We have treated this as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Our response

3. We have decided to grant your request.
4. The Commission has not received any complaints about or otherwise looked into the GTI-Net scheme.
5. We note that the Belgium Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) issued a warning about a trader called GTI Net in 2017.¹ The FSMA noted that the GTI Net system resembled that of a pyramid scheme or Ponzi fraud. It strongly advised against engaging with any services offered by or providing any money to GTI Net.
6. The Commission has recently warned four individuals for likely breaching the law by promoting and operating a pyramid scheme in New Zealand.²
7. We advise all New Zealanders to avoid similar schemes, and encourage their family and friends to do so too. Any individual found to be promoting or operating a pyramid scheme may be breaching the Fair Trading Act 1986 and could be subject to criminal conviction and a fine of up to \$600,000 per offence.

¹ <https://www.fsma.be/en/warnings/fsma-warns-public-against-activities-gti-net-global-trading-and-invest-network>

² <https://comcom.govt.nz/news-and-media/media-releases/2019/commerce-commission-warns-women-involved-with-womens-gifting-circle>

8. You can find further information about pyramid schemes on the Commission's website.³
9. If you think a business or person is not complying with one of the laws we enforce, you can make a complaint to the Commission on 0800 943 600 or at contact@comcom.govt.nz, or on our website.⁴
10. The Commission will be publishing this response to your request on its website. Your personal details will be redacted from the published response.
11. Please do not hesitate to contact oiia@comcom.govt.nz if you have any questions about this request.

Yours sincerely,

H. R. Wadham

Hilda Wadham
OIA Coordinator

³ <https://comcom.govt.nz/consumers/dealing-with-typical-situations/pyramid-schemes>

⁴ <https://comcom.govt.nz/contact-us>