



9 April 2025

Richard Barge  
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**Official information request**

**Our ref: R00855**

Tēnā koe Richard

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received on 12 March 2025.  
You requested:

*We would also be grateful for copies of the documentation offered to Ministers ahead of the decision to undertake a review of iHemp regulation; in particular the briefing paper to, and details of the directions given by, the Minister. This is not for publication, rather for reference. We ask in good faith - aiming to avoid using the OIA process as we appreciate how clumsy and time consuming the OIA can be for officials.*

**Information released**

We have identified the below document in scope of your request. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Date	Reference	Title	Decision
23/01/2025	MFR2025-001	Advice on progressing changes to industrial hemp regulation	Released

See the attached Appendix A for the requested information. We would also like to draw your attention to several contextual points for when you review the briefing:

- We can confirm that after considering the Ministry's advice, the Minister agreed in principle to Approach 1, to use secondary legislation to remove or reduce licencing requirements on the industrial hemp sector.
- The timeline set out in Table 1 is no longer applicable due to the Ministry needing to reprioritise resourcing in February and March (we will be in touch with further details on updated timeframes and contact points).

- The request for priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme was not submitted as this was only required for Approaches 2 or 3.

**Right of review**

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact [hello@regulation.govt.nz](mailto: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](http://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



Aisling Risdon

**Head of Ministerial Services**

**Ministry for Regulation**