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Sent: 6/07/2016 11:59:32 AM

To: EXT Megan McKay [mailto:Megan.McKay@parliament.govt.nz];

CC: Charlie Mitchell [mailto:Charlie.Mitchell@hnzc.co.nz];

Subject: Considerations around announcing change in meth testing level

Hi Alicia,

Thanks for your time earlier -

As you know HNZ considers that the current MoH guideline should be raised. We are working with Standards NZ, industry experts (Dr Kim is one of them) around what a more appropriate standard should be. We think it should be 1.5, but that is yet to be confirmed. It's likely that we will land on this figure in about 4 weeks so at this stage it is not a decision that has been approved by our Board. When we do make the decision we need to work through the following risks:

· There is a real risk that Contractors are unlikely to be willing to work on these properties. Even if HNZ is prepared to offer these properties for tenanting the whole of NZ works to the MoH guidelines as a de-facto standard and contractors will be unwilling to expose employees to perceived H&S risks. We have to do a lot of education work with our contractors to get them to accept a new guide/level outside Standards NZ and MoH doing their work.

· Highly likely that meth testing and decontamination work will be unable to be contracted - the professional players in the industry (e.g. Forensic & Industrial Science Limited) are accredited by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) for analysis and collection of surface swabs for methamphetamine. P lab testing services offered by firms like Forensic & Industrial Science Limited are in line with the MoH Guidelines. It is likely these laboratories will not risk their accreditation to service HNZ at a different threshold level.

· Going outside the current standard setting process i.e. the Standards NZ process. A national standard is developed on established techniques and processes built from requirements under the Standards and Accreditation Act 2015 and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) etc. HNZ sought entry to, and was recently confirmed, as a member of the NZ Standards Technical Committee responsible for the development of a national meth standard, along with MoH, Local Government entities and private sector businesses involved in the meth testing/ decontamination industry etc. (including some of whom we do business with). HNZ or any other agency wouldn't go it alone in advance of the establishment of new building standards or workplace safety standards. There is a real risk we will be suspended from the Standards NZ Committee, or face backlash from members.

· Will MSD be prepared to purchase them? Because in purchasing these houses MSD will be taking on "risk" too - they will be purchasing homes which are outside the MoH contamination guidelines which the whole of NZ uses as a de-facto standard.

· What legal action could be taken against us by our staff/PSA by us making this decision against the current Ministry of Health Guidelines? What level of risk are we exposing our Board and Officers to in relation to the recent changes in Health & Safety Legislation?

To do this properly we need to work through all these risks and either mitigate or manage them.

B

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