

# Office of the Prime Minister



## Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

29 MAY 2020

Ryan Potts

By Email: [fyi-request-12778-2eaa642d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12778-2eaa642d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: PMO 2020-080

Dear Ryan Potts

### Official Information Act request relating to deaths during Alert Level 4 lockdown in response to COVID-19 pandemic

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 5 May 2020. You requested:

*"Any reports you have received about the number of "excess deaths" and overall mortality during the period of Level 4 lockdown; and Any advice you have received regarding the possibility of deaths from undetected COVID-19 such as those recorded under pneumonia or influenza."*

No reports on the number of 'excess' deaths during the Level 4 lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have been identified as held or received by this Office. Accordingly, your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act - *"that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found."*

Details of current cases including the number of deaths each day are published on the Ministry of Health website at: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-current-cases](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-current-cases). Although not in scope of your request, you may be interested in COVID-19 modelling reports that were commissioned by the Ministry of Health to help understand the health outcomes and impacts on New Zealand of COVID-19. These are available on the Ministry of Health website at: [www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-modelling-and-other-commissioned-reports](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/covid-19-modelling-and-other-commissioned-reports).

In addition, Statistics New Zealand is providing statistics and commentary about the effects of COVID-19 in New Zealand on its website at: [www.stats.govt.nz/topics/covid-19](http://www.stats.govt.nz/topics/covid-19).

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email ([info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

Raj Nahna  
Chief of Staff