

21 July 2014

Matthew Coley  
[fyi-request-1743-75055c4b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-1743-75055c4b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Coley,

### **Request for Information - Deaths in Fiordland National Park**

On 13 June 2014 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) to the Department of Conservation regarding deaths that occurred in the Fiordland National Park.

The Department of Conservation transferred your request to the New Zealand Police, and on 10 July the New Zealand Police transferred a part of your request to the Ministry of Justice pursuant to section 14 of the OIA. I understand that the New Zealand Police have advised you of the transfer.

You specifically requested the following information:

- Since Department of Conservation began keeping records, how many incidents of death have occurred in Fiordland National Parks? Broken down yearly.
- How many of these deaths are attributed to tramping related incidents? Broken down yearly.
- How many of these deaths are attributed to natural causes? Broken down yearly.
- How many of these deaths are attributed to firearms? Broken down yearly.

Attached find three tables containing the data you have requested. It is important to note the following relating to the data provided:

- The Ministry can only provide data from the time the Coroners Act 2006 was enacted in July 2007;
- The Ministry can only provide information on deaths that are within the jurisdiction of the Coroner, i.e. sudden and unexpected deaths;
- Four instances of drowning deaths while boating at sea are included in the data. The deaths are described in the coroners' findings as close to the Fiordland Coast;
- There were two instances of natural causes deaths while tramping. We have included these deaths in the category "Natural Causes, including while Tramping"; and
- No firearms deaths were reported to the Coroner in this period.

Please note that whilst every effort is made to ensure that all instances of deaths in the Fiordland National Park have been captured, due to the manner in which information has been recorded by, or presented to the Coroner, the attached figures should not be taken as representing every such instance.

Thank you again for your enquiry. I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Johan Struwig  
**Senior Business Advisor**  
**Specialist Courts**

Ref: OIA 49656

## Fiordland National Park Area Coronial Deaths 1 July 2007 to 10 July 2014

### (by Case Status)

Case Status	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	Total
Active						2	2	1	5
Closed	3	3	4	4	6	4	1		25
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>

### (by Tramping Related Accidents)

Type	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2013/2014	Total
Tramping	1	1	2	2	1	2	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

### (by Natural Causes including while Tramping)

Type	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	Total
Natural Causes	2		1		2	5
Natural Causes/Tramping		1		1		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>