

8 March 2022

Chuck Schooner  
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Our ref: OIA 93495

Tēnā koe Chuck

**Official Information Act request: Coronial case inquiries**

Thank you for your email of 21 January 2022 to New Zealand Police requesting information regarding several matters, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your request was partially transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

On 9 February 2022, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency then transferred two of your questions that related to coronial services to the Ministry of Justice for response. Specifically, you have requested, in the context of car crashes in 2020, 2021, and 2022:

- *Can you confirm if the Coroner assessed if any of the drivers suffered a sudden event in advance*
- *If not - why not? And can an assessment be done after the fact*

In response to your first question, I am advised that any crash resulting in a fatality is likely to be referred to the Coroner for investigation. The Coroner considers various forms of evidence when making their findings, which can include medical history, the results of a post-mortem and the circumstances from the crash itself.

I am also advised that that any fatal crash that occurred in 2020, 2021 or 2022 may still be an active case. Therefore, the Coroner would not yet have issued any findings yet. If you wish to request information relating to a specific case, you may do so by contacting coronial.information@justice.govt.nz or by telephone to either (04) 918 8332 or (04) 466 2786.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Jan Morison  
**Acting Manager, Ministerial Relations and Services**