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8 May 2023

K Thompson

By email: [fyi-request-22572-1492b16b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-22572-1492b16b@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H2023024236

Tēnā koe

### **Transfer of your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 26 April 2023. You requested:

*“Please can you inform us how it was determined that 29 people in New Zealand had died of Covid (delta variant) in 2020, 2021 and early 2022,, as was reported in May 2022, instead of the earlier reported 52 deaths from Covid (as was reported for example in March 2022).*

*Was this over-counting of Covid delta deaths due to wrong diagnosis, and, if so, how was this misdiagnosis determined after the deaths had occurred, at a later date (circa May 2022)? Presumably the over-counting of Covid deaths could not be determined by autopsy?”*

The requested information is more closely connected to the functions of Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand. For this reason, I have decided to transfer your request to their agency under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response from Te Whatu Ora in due course.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nab



Jan Torres  
**Manager, OIA Services**

**COPY OF OIA REQUEST**

**From:** K Thompson <fyi-request-22572-1492b16b@requests.fyi.org.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 April 2023 17:18  
**To:** OIA Requests <oiagr@moh.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Official Information request - Covid Deaths

Dear Ministry of Health,

Please can you inform us how it was determined that 29 people in New Zealand had died of Covid (delta variant) in 2020, 2021 and early 2022,, as was reported in May 2022, instead of the earlier reported 52 deaths from Covid (as was reported for example in March 2022).

Was this over-counting of Covid delta deaths due to wrong diagnosis, and, if so, how was this misdiagnosis determined after the deaths had occurred, at a later date (circa May 2022)? Presumably the over-counting of Covid deaths could not be determined by autopsy?

Yours faithfully,  
K Thompson