

6 October 2022

Chris McCashin
fyi-request-20355-9082ae77@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Chris,

Your Official Information Act request, reference H2022013213:

Thank you for your email of 21 September 2022 requesting information relating to still births.

As part of the health and disability system reforms, as of 1 July 2022 the functions previously under the Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) Data and Digital directorate have transferred to Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand. As the matters you have raised now fall under the functions of Te Whatu Ora, our agency will respond to your request which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I shall quote and respond to each part of your request below.

Please provide Definition of still birth

Under section 2 of the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995, a still-birth is defined as “*the issue from its mother of a still-born child*”. Further, a still-born child is defined as “a dead foetus that–

- a) weighed 400g or more when it issued from its mother; or
- b) issued from its mother after the 20th week of pregnancy”.

Please provide number of still births 2010-2022

Te Whatu Ora, through the Manatū Hauora website, publishes information on still-births, including historical data, on its website as part of the fetal and infant deaths web tool:

www.health.govt.nz/publication/fetal-and-infant-deaths-web-tool. This includes data until 2018.

In 2019, there were 426 still-birth registrations, and in 2020 there were 434 still-birth registrations. Information for stillbirths in 2021 is not yet available. The data for 2021 is likely to be available in the first half of 2023, on request to Te Whatu Ora. The reason this data takes time to process is that there can be issues with non-registration. These cases need to be investigated to determine whether they should be included in the data.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. You are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may decide to proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal tail.

Gaynor Bradfield
Manager
Office of the Chief Data and Digital