

2 November 2022

Chris McCashin

fyi-request-20470-2b0d6b89@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Chris,

Your Official Information Act request, reference H2022011903:

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2022 requesting information relating to COVID-19 statistics.

As part of the health and disability system reforms, as of 1 July 2022 the functions previously under the Manatū Hauora National Immunisation directorate were transferred to Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora). As the matters you 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.

“Number of the 171 deaths referred to the Coroner - if these weren't referred to the Coroner what is the process? I have been referred to births, deaths and marriages as a few sudden deaths where I requested the Coroner files available for public they stated they weren't referred these cases?”

For your information, police always inform a coroner when someone dies unexpectedly, violently or in suspicious circumstances. Additionally, if a GP or health practitioner is unsure what caused a person's death, they will report it to the coroner. The Coroner's Court will find out when, where, how and why the death happened. They'll also work out whether anything can be done differently so that similar deaths can be prevented. The Coronial Services Unity at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) supports the Coroner's Court. Te Whatu Ora is not involved in coronial services.

Because cause of death is investigated and determined by a coroner, an independent judicial officer, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act because the information you have requested is not held.

More information on the process of a post-mortem is found here:

<https://coronialservices.justice.govt.nz/what-happens-during-a-post-mortem/>

“If the case goes to births, deaths and marriages what process do they go through for these deaths. Have DIA been involved in providing settlements to these people as it doesn't seem to appear through MOH or ACC?”

On 17 October 2022, this part of your request was transferred to MoJ pursuant to section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response from MoJ in due course.

*“Number of the 171 deaths where the Coroner decided if a post mortem was needed
Number of the 171 deaths where the family has requested a post mortem”*

Te Whatu Ora does not determine the cause of death as this function aligns with the role of the coroner. As such, your request is refused under section 18(g). The Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) provides advice on possible association between COVID-19 vaccines and the adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) experienced by consumers following COVID-19 vaccination. Further information is available here: www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241516990 and here: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/monitoring-process.asp

“what is the process for a family member to obtain a post mortem”

Te Whatu Ora does not hold this information as this process is determined by the coroner. As such, your request is refused under section 18(g). Please refer to the link regarding the process of a post-mortem above.

“All of the Post Mortem analysis completed by the pathologists, tissue samples, stains, any and all process documents associated with completing the Post Mortem analysis”

Te Whatu Ora does not hold information on whether an autopsy was performed. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by Te Whatu Ora and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

“Number of deaths Coroner has said an enquiry is needed versus not needed - eg 171 inquiries are needed versus 0 not needed - one would assume all of these sudden deaths would be needed?”

Te Whatu Ora does not hold this information as this process is determined by the coroner. As such, your request is refused under section 18(g). Please refer to the link regarding the process of a post-mortem above.

“Total number of Post Mortem reports completed associated with the 171 deaths”

Te Whatu Ora does not hold the information in this requested form. While the Act allows people in New Zealand to ask for information from Ministers and Government agencies, there is no requirement for agencies to create new information, compile information they do not hold or provide or prove an opinion. As such, your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by Te Whatu Ora and there are no grounds for believing it is connected more closely with the functions with another agency subject to the Act.

“There are 23 deaths “that could not be assessed due to insufficient” information. I can tell the Ministry of Health all of the tests that need to be performed that can determine causality from the vaccine - subject to this response is the Ministry of Health interested in finding out why these 23 people died if I can provide a comprehensive list of medical tests to perform? Surely this is in the public interest as 7 years olds, and 12 year olds are now dropping dead?”

Te Whatu Ora does not perform any tests or procedures of this sort. As such your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

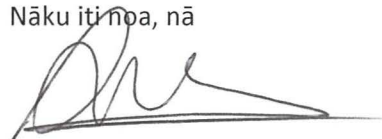
“Per Section 14 of the Coroners Act all of these deaths appear to be the result of a “medical procedure” - based on Medsafes own data at a minimum 34 deaths could be linked to this medical procedure however there could be in excess of 3,000 due to this procedure. What is the “minimum” standard associated with unexpected deaths by a medical procedure for the Coroner to make a recommendation - 1 death, 2 deaths, 3 deaths? 171 deaths in strange circumstances?”

Te Whatu Ora continually monitors and maintains passive and active surveillance independently, without the recommendation of the coroner. More information on safety monitoring can be found on the Medsafe website here: www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/monitoring-process.asp

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



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Te Whatu Ora
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