

18 January 2023

Chris McCashin
fyi-request-21145-e14890f0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Chris

Your Official Information Act request, reference: HNZ00008423

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2022, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“A similar request here received a response

<https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=15517&d=ybmO4xw0PLLIk3GkNiPVzXnnl5tznlomV3jIYQV39A&u=https%3a%2f%2ffyi%2eorg%2enz%2frequest%2f12581-deaths-in-aged-care-residential-facilities-5-years-of-monthly-data%23incoming-48814>

I require the same data but going back a few more years - please respond identically to the above request

Please note - this letter is dated 2 June 2020.

It mentions that it does not include the total number of people who pay the full cost themselves which is estimated to be around 5,000. Your letter dated 6 December 2022 estimates that the total number of residents who pay for the cost themselves is 2,000. That seems to be an awful lot of people who have died in the last few years. If those two numbers are accurate as at that date then 60% of these people that had paid themselves have either died or disappeared? Is that a cause for concern?

Please provide the data similar to the previous response”

On 6 January 2023, Te Whatu Ora contacted you to refine your request, otherwise it would likely be refused under section 18(f) of the Act as substantial manual collation would be required to provide the information requested. We did not receive a response to this request within the allotted timeframe.

Please note the request you refer to above included different information to your current request. The previous information was readily available at that time as this work had been compiled prior to the OIA request.

At this time, the information you are requesting is not readily available. Therefore, in order to provide a similar response to the above, Te Whatu Ora would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair Te Whatu Ora’s ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of Te Whatu Ora’s resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, requires substantial collation.

We have considered whether extending the timeframe for responding to your request and fixing a charge for the supply of the information would remove the administrative burden. However, even with these options, the resources required to provide the information would significantly affect the performance of Te Whatu Ora’s other duties.

In reference to your concern around the difference in the number of patients reported, the discrepancy is that while there are around 5,000 that pay the full cost themselves, a number (around 3,000) are in the payment system at a zero rate. The difference is not because of an unusual number of deaths. Therefore, a more accurate answer is: "The payment system does not record around 2,000 of the 5,000 residents who pay the full cost themselves."

How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to 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, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on Health NZ's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



pp.

Sasha Wood
Interim Lead OIA & Proactive Release
Government Partnership and Risk