

22 November 2023

Chris McCashin

fyi-request-24521-076b4570@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 107927

Tēnā koe Chris

Request for Coroners Court information on sudden deaths between 2000 and 2023

Thank you for your email of 25 October 2023 to New Zealand Police (Police) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information on sudden death events. Specifically, you requested:

From 2000 - 2023 sudden death events - can you please include the 2023 deaths up to the current date Median attendance time

On 27 October 2023 your request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) for response under section 14 of the Act. Police have advised the Ministry that your request for information on sudden death attendance time will be responded to by Police, following a separate request for this information you made to Police on 27 October 2023. The Ministry does not hold information on Police attendance times.

In response to your request, please refer to Table 1 enclosed. Table 1 provides the number of deaths notified to the coroner, by year, between 1 July 2007 and 6 November 2023. It is important to note that this information can only be provided from 1 July 2007, as that is when the case management system used by the Coroners Court became operational. This means that the numbers provided for 2007 reflect a six-month period.

For the purpose of your request, sudden deaths have been interpreted as all deaths that must be reported to the coroner in accordance with sections 13 and 14 of the Coroners Act 2006: those that appear to have been without known cause, self-inflicted, unnatural, violent, or medically unexpected. It is important to note that the data in table 1 will differ to data supplied by Police, as Police do not attend all deaths referred to the coroner. For example, deaths that are medically unexpected are referred to the coroner by a health practitioner.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response, please contact Joe Locke, Media & Social Media Manager, on 021 636 416, or email media@justice.govt.nz

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by calling 0800 802 60; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

I trust this information assists.

Nāku noa, nā



Jacquelyn Shannon

Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Ref: 107927

Encl: 1) Table 1: The number of deaths notified to the coroner, by year, between 1 July 2007 and 6 November 2023

Table 1: The number of deaths notified to the coroner, by year, between 1 July 2007 and 6 November 2023

Year	1 July to 31 December 2007	1 January to 31 December 2008	1 January to 31 December 2009	1 January to 31 December 2010	1 January to 31 December 2011	1 January to 31 December 2012	1 January to 31 December 2013	1 January to 31 December 2014	1 January to 31 December 2015	1 January to 31 December 2016	1 January to 31 December 2017	1 January to 31 December 2018	1 January to 31 December 2019	1 January to 31 December 2020	1 January to 31 December 2021	1 January to 31 December 2022	1 January to 6 November 2023
Total deaths	1,589	3,440	3,444	3,276	3,421	3,284	3,034	3,241	3,338	3,360	3,557	3,583	3,852	3,505	3,593	3,861	3,238

Notes:

- This data was extracted from the case management system used by the Coroners Court as at 6 November 2023 and may differ from previously released or published data.
- Sudden deaths have been interpreted as all deaths that must be reported to the coroner in accordance with sections 13 and 14 of the Coroners Act 2006: those that appear to have been without known cause, self-inflicted, unnatural, violent, or medically unexpected. This data will differ to data supplied by Police, as Police do not attend all deaths referred to the coroner. For example, deaths that are medically unexpected are referred to the coroner by a health practitioner.
- Cases are included based on the date the case was notified to the coroner, which can differ from the date of death.
- This data contains active cases which are currently under investigation by the coroner and are therefore provisional. This information is being made available for release on behalf of the Chief Coroner.
- This data also includes closed cases which have a cause of death that has been determined by the coroner, where a finding or certificate has been issued.
- This information can only be provided from 1 July 2007, as that is when the case management system used by the Coroners Court became operational.
- Due to the manner in which information has been recorded by, or presented to the coroner, the statistics provided should not be taken as representing every such instance.