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| 25 October 2019 | 45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011  Phone +64 4 495 7200  [dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz) |
| M F Grange  [fyi-request-10348-b687b8e9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10348-b687b8e9@requests.fyi.org.nz) |

Dear M F Grange

OIA request 18/19 0747 Clarification of data

On 17 June 2019 the Department released information to you in response to your request under the Official Information Act. You had requested the following information;

*In relation to the Greater Wellington region 2016 - 2019 (year to date) –*

* *Total number of marriages registered by an independent celebrant.*
* *Total number of civil unions registered by an independent celebrant.*
* *The (approx) 30 independent celebrants that have officiated the greatest amount of marriages.*
* *The (approx) 30 independent celebrants that have officiated the greatest amount of civil unions.*

Unfortunately we have since been advised that the data provided in response to your request is unreliable, and the information you received should be treated as indicative only and may not be completely accurate. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you.

The Department has noticed increased interest from the celebrant community for the statistics and data that the Department holds. We have looked into information we can proactively release, and have now released a database of marriage and civil union ceremonies performed by independent celebrants. You can find the database here; <https://catalogue.data.govt.nz/dataset/independent-marriage-civil-union-celebrants-number-of-ceremonies-performed> (you may find it easier to open this link in Chrome).

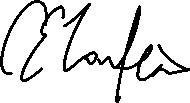
The date range for this data is 01 October 2018 to 30 September 2019 and the postcodes reflect the registered address of the celebrant. It was sourced from a different database to the information released to you, and we can confirm this data is accurate at the time of production but as with all statistics collated there may be an element of human error.

You can filter this database by postcode to select the area that covers your region of interest here. You may like to refer to the NZ Post website for assistance determining postcodes; <https://www.nzpost.co.nz/personal/sending-within-nz/how-to-address-mail/postcodes/postcode-maps>.

The Department will continue to publish this database on the data.govt.nz website, plus we are looking at what additional information might be able to be released in this area.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Clare Toufexis

Acting Manager Branch Development and Support

Service Delivery and Operations