|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 27 September 2019  | 45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011Phone +64 4 495 7200Email OIA@dia.govt.nzWebsite [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)   |
| Nichola Nicholsonfyi-request-11095-1d4ea965@requests.fyi.org.nz |

Dear Nichola

Official Information Act 1982 request 1920-0201

I refer to your request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 30 August 2019. This response is provided to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested for the Hawkes Bay from 2016-2019 year to date

 *- Total number of marriages registered by an independent celebrant;*

*- Total number of marriages registered by organisational celebrants,*

*- Total number of civil unions registered by an independent celebrant;*

*- The (approx) 30 independent celebrants that have officiated the greatest amount of marriages;*

***Privacy information***

The Department has made contact with each of the independent marriage celebrants that appear in the lists provided. We have sought their views on their names being released in response to this request.

Where the celebrant has declined to have their name released, or did not respond, their name has not been included in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA – to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned.

***Response***

The Department has used the website <https://www.qv.co.nz/search/new-zealand> to define the Hawkes Bay area. Please find attached in Appendix A, a list of all the places that have been searched in order to respond to this request.

**Total number of marriages registered in Hawkes Bay by an independent celebrant**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **TOTAL** |
| **2016** | 447 |
| **2017** | 443 |
| **2018** | 487 |
| **2019 up to 31 August**  | 340 |

**Total number of marriages registered in Hawkes Bay by an organisational celebrant**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **TOTAL** |
| **2016** | 202 |
| **2017** | 186 |
| **2018** | 152 |
| **2019 up to 31 August**  | 90 |

**Total number of civil unions registered in Hawkes Bay by an independent celebrant**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **YEAR** | **TOTAL** |
| **2016** | 0 |
| **2017** | 0 |
| **2018** | 0 |
| **2019 up to 31 August** | 1 |

**List of celebrants**

You requested the (approx) top 30 celebrants who officiated the greatest amount of marriages, in the Hawkes Bay from January 2016 to 2019 year to date.

The following list is made up of the 30 celebrants who met this criteria. Celebrant’s names have not been ranked but rather provided to you in alphabetical order.

|  |
| --- |
| Celebrants who performed the most marriages in Hawkes Bay 2016-2019 (up to 31 August) |
| Annie Gower | Megan Banks |
| Bev Kerr | Melissa West |
| Dave Pipe | Nichola Nicholson |
| Fiona Cleary | Sandra McNeil |
| Heather Fletcher | Sharon Sanson |
| Jean Hill | Susanna Clark |
| Joanne Smith | Te Huikama Borell |
| John Taylor  | Tryphena Cracknell |
| Karen Callaghan | Wayne Mowat |
| Mark Carter | Wendy Beauchamp |

\* There were 10 celebrants who did not respond to our request to release their name or declined to have their name released

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

David Philp

Manager Branch Development and Support

Service Delivery and Operations