

1 October 2021

Malcolm Carr  
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Tēnā koe Malcolm Carr

### **Official Information Act 1982 request**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 7 September 2021 to the Ministry of Health seeking information on the number of autopsies performed on individuals who have received the Pfizer vaccine.

On 9 September 2021 your request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) as the Ministry is best placed to respond to your request. Specifically you have asked:

*Could you please inform me how many autopsies have been performed on individuals that have died in New Zealand, and have been vaccinated with either one or two does of the COVID-19 vaccine*

In response to your request, information relating to deaths of people who have received a COVID-19 vaccination is reported to the Office of the Chief Coroner. This information is subject to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Chief Coroner and the Ministry of Health, and can only be released with the permission of both parties.

It is important to note that as this information is held by the Coroner's Court, it is excluded from the operation of the OIA under section 2(6)(a). As the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry of Justice, I am refusing your request under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA as there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown, organisation, or local authority.

The Ministry of Justice has consulted with both the Chief Coroner and the Ministry of Health on your behalf to understand whether the information shared under the Memorandum of Understanding can be released to you. They have declined to release the information on the basis that it does not include the specific details you have requested.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response please contact Alison Horwood, Media Manager, Media and External Relations, by calling (04) 918 8836; or emailing [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto: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 writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JRS' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Jacquelyn Shannon

**Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery**

Ref: 90612