

30 May 2022

Angela  
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Our ref: OIA 96033

Tēnā koe Angela

**Official Information Act request: Registrars operating and Births Deaths and Marriages at Papakura District Court**

Thank you for your email of 17 May 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information related to registrars operating at Papakura District Court. I have outlined each part of your request, and my response, below.

1. *Can you please collate all the information that is available on the Registrars who were operating at the Papakura District Court in the years 1965-1972, including their ages, their salary, and their educational background?*

Regarding the first part of your request, the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) does not hold this information as all personnel files are destroyed after seven years, as required under the Public Records Act 2005. As such, the Ministry must refuse this portion of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, because the information requested is not held by the Ministry and we have no grounds for believing it is held by another agency or Minister.

2. *Can you please supply all the information that is available, on the creation of the acts of registering births and deaths for the district of Papakura, how they were recorded, collected and conveyed the information collected, the standard procedure as it related to the Papakura District alone, who was responsible for viewing and having access to that information, where was that information was stored, who specifically gained access to the information and for what purpose...ie any government department, or international organisation, corporation sole, natural person or person from the years between 1966-1969 excluding adoptions?*
3. *Please include any notes, files, letters, correspondence, progression of legislation, changes to legislation and instructions that have been archived from the Papakura District Court and the Registrars responsible for recording Births, Deaths and Marriages for the Papakura district for the years 1966-1969.*

The Ministry has conducted an initial search through archived information to attempt to respond to parts two and three of your request. Unfortunately, nothing within these specified dates or the location of Papakura was found.

The information that was identified would require substantial time and effort to assess and identify anything related to Papakura, and within the specified time period, if it even exists. Even with a timeframe extension, the Ministry considers the above tasks would have a significant and unreasonable impact on the agency's ability to carry out its other operations.

For these reasons, the Ministry must refuse these parts of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

4. *How many times have the NZ government been pursued through the NZ Courts for making false statements about living people?*
5. *Please supply any details on the court cases brought about by any New Zealand individual in the basis of false recording of birth information please. All notes and case files please.*

I am refusing parts four and five of your request because the information you have requested relates to court records. Access to the court record is governed by legislation and there are specific rules around how this information can be released.

Generally speaking, the person seeking information from the court record will need to contact, in writing, the Registrar of the court at which the case was heard. You will need to identify the particular records you wish to access and give reasons for your application. Court contact details can be found on the Ministry's website at: [www.justice.govt.nz/services/finding-your-local-court](http://www.justice.govt.nz/services/finding-your-local-court).

6. *Are the staff at the Ministry of Justice sworn to uphold the Crimes Act 1961?*
7. *Are the staff at the Ministry of Justice sworn to uphold the Crimes Act 1961 s240, s111?*

I can advise that staff employed by the Ministry are not sworn to uphold the Crimes Act 1961, or specifically the Crimes Act 1961 s240, s111.

8. *Is it a FALSE Statement according to the Laws of New Zealand to deliberately violate the rules of English Grammar when recording birth information of living babies?*

I must advise you that your query does not fall within the scope of the Act. Rather, your question is a request for legal advice on the meaning of a particular legislative provision. Your request for information is accordingly refused on the basis that the Act does not apply.

You may find it useful to seek independent legal advice on the definition and interpretation of the Act. I note that the Ministry is unable to provide legal advice to members of the public. However, your local Community Law Centre may be able to assist you. You can find a Community Law Centre near you at: [www.communitylaw.org.nz](http://www.communitylaw.org.nz).

I appreciate this response is not what you had hoped for. However, hopefully I have sufficiently explained why providing you with more information is not possible. If you remain unsatisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

If you require further information, please contact Joe Locke, Media Manager on 021 636 416, or email: [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



Jenna Bottcher Hansen  
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