

16 December 2022

Chris McCashin
fyi-request-20885-97958698@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 18 November 2022 seeking further statistics regarding active coronial cases.

Specifically, you asked for the information you were previously given about active coronial cases (OIA ref 100117) to be broken down into ten year age categories, with the start date extended to 2015.

Additionally, you requested the following:

“up to and including 31st August there were 177 deaths reported to CARM after administration of the vaccine. Are you able to provide

- How many of those deaths were investigated by the Coroner*
- How many had full autopsies, pathology tests etc completed*
- How many of those deaths were declined to be investigated by the Coroner due to a doctor signing off*
- Of the deaths that were signed off by a doctor please confirm how many doctors in total signed off the deaths - eg 177 cases referred to CARM, say 50 went to Coroner, 127 were declined due to Doctor signing off - 1 doctor, 2 doctors, 3 doctors, 127 doctors? Or were cases that were referred to CARM all signed off by one doctor?”*

With respect to your request for data on active coronial cases, please find Tables 1 and 2 enclosed. These tables provide the number of active cases and the average age in days of coronial cases completed in the 12 month periods ending January 2015 to October 2022.

Where you have asked for a breakdown of this data by ‘age’, we have interpreted ‘age’ to mean the age of the deceased at the date of their death. Coronial cases, broken down by the age of the deceased, is not data currently held by the Ministry of Justice and would need to be created in order to respond to your request.

The OIA enables people to request official information from Ministers and agencies, including the Ministry of Justice . However, the OIA only applies to information that is already held, and the Ministry of Justice is not required to create information in order to respond to a request. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request as allowed by 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.

With respect to the remainder of your request, information relating to deaths of people who have received a COVID-19 vaccination is reported to the Office of the Chief Coroner.

It is important to note that as this information is held by the Coroners 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 this part of 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.

If you require further information, please contact Joe Locke, Media and 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 writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

I trust that this information assists.

Nāku noa, nā



Jacquelyn Shannon
Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Ref: 101069

Encl: Table 1: Number of active coronial cases as at 31 January 2015 to 31 October 2022.
Table 2: Average age in days of coronial cases completed in the 12 month periods ending January 2015 to October 2022.

Table 1: Number of active coronial cases as at 31 January 2015 to 31 October 2022.

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2015	2,933	2,947	3,026	3,100	3,120	3,163	3,116	3,167	3,083	3,066	3,103	3,031
2016	3,026	3,042	3,076	3,126	3,132	3,187	3,266	3,276	3,279	3,292	3,310	3,420
2017	3,468	3,554	3,517	3,618	3,619	3,641	3,697	3,774	3,759	3,800	3,815	3,883
2018	3,978	3,971	4,002	4,047	4,056	4,110	4,160	4,180	4,251	4,283	4,217	4,234
2019	4,333	4,368	4,543	4,564	4,536	4,665	4,571	4,588	4,682	4,750	4,831	4,941
2020	4,982	4,967	5,100	5,281	5,249	5,244	5,284	5,238	5,209	5,225	5,278	5,381
2021	5,410	5,444	5,462	5,488	5,558	5,520	5,527	5,564	5,557	5,517	5,510	5,544
2022	5,659	5,771	5,830	5,979	6,066	6,160	6,130	6,115	6,137	6,236	-	-

Notes:

- This data may differ from previously released or published data. This data was extracted from the case management system as at 05/11/2022.
- Numbers of active cases may be affected by seasonal patterns.
- Example interpretation: At the end of January 2018, there were 3,978 active coronial cases.

Table 2: Average age in days of coronial cases completed in the 12 month periods ending January 2015 to October 2022.

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2015	361	358	332	333	334	337	333	328	328	319	318	316
2016	321	322	323	318	316	312	309	310	310	313	310	309
2017	307	303	304	307	308	312	325	325	323	320	324	325
2018	325	335	340	344	346	346	341	341	343	348	346	349
2019	354	347	344	339	342	342	342	338	343	347	350	348
2020	352	352	353	357	357	382	400	421	435	449	457	467
2021	464	477	491	489	494	479	472	480	476	474	478	480
2022	490	493	493	494	497	499	503	501	500	489	-	-

Notes:

- This data may differ from previously released or published data. This data was extracted from the case management system as at 05/11/2022.
- This data includes only Coronial cases. Advice cases (excluded) are those where the Coroner declines jurisdiction and a doctor certifies the death. Coronial cases are those where the Coroner accepts jurisdiction for death.
- Average completed time represents the active days between the date the death was notified to the Coroner and the date of final findings being issued.
- Example interpretation: In the 12 months ending January 2018, the average age of coronial cases at the date final findings were issued was 325 days.