

29 November 2023

Chris McCashin  
[fyi-request-23952-c418adb9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-23952-c418adb9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Chris

**Your request for Official information, reference: HNZ00031942**

Thank you for your email of 1 November 2023 asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“All I want are the numbers through the years (2020-2023) that died during childbirth - given we are a first world country I don't expect there to be many.”*

Unfortunately, there is no field in our data which indicates that a death specifically occurred during childbirth. To try and work that out, a person would need to manually investigate each potential death and try and determine exactly when the death occurred.

Maternal deaths are the standard measure used for monitoring this internationally, as they are deaths caused by the pregnancy. Te Whatu Ora can provide you with these numbers, but they are not specifically during childbirth.

Under the under section 14(2)(d) of the [Coroners Act 2006](#) any death of a woman during childbirth must be reported to the coroner. This correspondence is to advise you that we have transferred your request in full to The Ministry of Justice. This is because the information to which your request relates is not held by Te Whatu Ora and is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of Coronial Services of New Zealand – Ministry of Justice. In these circumstances, we are required by section 14 of the Official Information Act to transfer your request.

You should expect to hear from the Ministry of Justice in due course about your request. If you need to get in touch with Ministry of Justice you can contact them by emailing [OIA@justice.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@justice.govt.nz)

**How to get in touch**

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [hnzOIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:hnzOIA@health.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Michael Cleary  
**Acting OIA Manager**  
**Government Services**