

18 January 2024

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Our ref: OIA 108346

Tēnā koe Chris

### **Request for Coroners Court information on deaths that occurred during childbirth**

Thank you for your email of 1 November 2023 to Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information on deaths that occurred during childbirth. Specifically, you requested:

*The data I have requested is basic - I require no causes of deaths.  
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.*

On 29 November 2023 your request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) for response under section 14 of the Act.

In response to your request, I can confirm that 1 maternal death during childbirth was reported to the coroner between 1 January 2020 and 18 December 2023. A death was reported to the coroner for the infant on the same day. It is important to note that this case is an open inquiry under investigation by the coroner. This means the Ministry is unable to release further information as the cause and circumstances of the death are provisional until the coroners findings have been released.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response, please contact Joe Locke, Media & Social Media Manager, on 021 636 416, or email [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 Act. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by calling 0800 802 60; or emailing [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

I trust this information assists.

Nāku noa, nā



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