



30 September 2015

John Smith  
[fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi.org.nz)

Dear John,

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, dated 1 June 2015. I apologise for the late reply to your request.

You asked the following:

*"I would like to know how to get a common law birth certificate? Or how to get a living birth certificate?"*

The Department has no such certificate available. Births, Deaths and Marriages register births and are able to issue sealed birth certificates containing information relating to a birth. These are simply called 'birth certificates' and cost \$26.50. You may order a birth certificate through a 'Request for New Zealand Birth Certificate or Printout' form. This is available at <http://www.dia.govt.nz/Births-deaths-and-marriages>

If you would like clarification or have further questions, write in to the above address or email [oiia@dia.govt.nz](mailto:oiia@dia.govt.nz)

You have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision under section 28 of the Official Information Act. The Ombudsman can be contacted at:

Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10152  
Wellington 6143

Kind regards,

Jeff Montgomery  
Registrar-General and General Manager  
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Citizenship, Authentications and Translations

