

13 December 2024

Official information request 8140014852
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Scott

By email: fyi-request-29087-6b1843bb@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Tēnā koe Scott

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Re: Drownings

Thank you for your email dated 06 November 2024, in which you requested information about drownings at Auckland Council facilities. The specific details of your request and our response are below.

Please provide the following data in respect to Auckland Council leisure centres, furthermore, please separate the data into two group "Centres managed by Auckland Council" and "Centres managed under contract".

- 1. The number of drownings***
- 2. The number of near drownings***
- 3. All other events attended by Lifeguards involving members of the public.***

Please find below a table of fatal and non-fatal drownings at Pools and Leisure facilities operated by Auckland Council and its contractors.

We have provided data since September 2022, the start date of Council's current health and safety operating software, Donesafe. Information prior to this is not easily retrievable. For consistency, contracted sites were also asked to provide their data starting from the same timeframe.

A fatal drowning is classified as: when a person dies through submersion in and inhalation of water. The non-fatal drownings (i.e. near drownings) are classified as: when a person has been submerged and inhaled water but has survived through resuscitative efforts. Non-fatal drowning incidents are very infrequent and there have been no fatal drownings in council pools for at least 17 years.

The category 'All other events attended by lifeguards' shows a wide variation in data which may be due to differences in reporting systems, data collection, and procedures across council and the contracted operators. Furthermore, the broad nature of the category ("all

other events") and the variability in how these incidents are reported likely contributes to some inconsistencies in the data. Examples of what could be recorded in this category include: administering basic first aid, slips and trips, fainting, wet and dry rescues, verbal and physical threats to staff from members of the public.

Auckland Council Pools and Leisure drowning data between September 2022 and November 2024		
	Auckland Council operated sites	Contracted Operators
Fatal Drownings	0	0
Non-Fatal Drownings	1	3
All other events attended by lifeguards	1802	534

The decision by Auckland Council to release the information contained in this response was made by **Claire Stewart, Interim General Manager - Pools and Leisure.**

You have the right to complain to the Ombudsman if you believe we have not responded appropriately to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries, please contact me on 09 301 0101 quoting official information request number 8140014852.

Ngā mihi



Amanda Pillay
Privacy and Official Information Business Partner
Customer Experience and Digital Services