

19 May 2026

David Robinson
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Our ref: OIA 131950

Tēnā koe Mr Robinson

Official Information Act request: Suspicious medicine use

On 6 April 2026 you emailed the Ministry of Health (MoH) requesting information about suspicious medicine usage under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 20 April 2026, MoH transferred part of your request to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) under section 14 of the Act, as the Ministry provides operational support to the Coroners Court. Specifically, the parts which were transferred are:

Describe the number of deaths that were reported in association with suspicious or unapproved medicines in New Zealand, since 2020, and where possible, provide an estimate of how many deaths, and SAC1-4 incidents, may have been associated with these, and what steps have been taken to investigate these.

Where deaths occurred in association with suspicious or unapproved medicines during this time period, what was the interval between these being reported to Ministry and Health New Zealand and being reported to the coroner. What was the interval in them being reported to the coroner. What was the interval in them being reported to police.

Where the deaths were already known to be unnatural (such as suicides or homicides), and suspicious or unapproved medicines were used, what was the average interval between being notified about these concerns, and notifying the coroner, police, courts, prosecutors, and defendants?

The information you have requested is court information. While the Ministry sometimes holds aggregated data for courts, it does not hold any related to your request. The information, if it exists, would be held in individual court files. The courts are a separate and independent arm of government and are specifically excluded from the Act under section 2(6)(a). Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information is not held by the Ministry, or any other agency subject to the Act.

You are able to request access to Coroners Court information by emailing coronial.information@justice.govt.nz. Access to this information is governed by the Coroners Act. While it is for the Court to comment on, it is unlikely the Coroners Court will hold the

information requested at an aggregated level. More information on requesting information from the Coroners Court can be found here: [Request information | Coroners Court](#)

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [Official Information Act responses | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28 of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by phone on: 0800 802 602, by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, or via the webform: [Make a complaint \(for members of the public\) | Ombudsman New Zealand](#).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A King', written in a cursive style.

Andrea King

Group Manager, Senior, Employment, Environment & Coroners Courts