

18 May 2026

Cher Ryker  
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Our ref: OIA 131954

Tēnā koe Ms Ryker

### **Official Information Act request: 1993 High Court records**

Thank you for your email of 18 April to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), regarding High Court records from 1993. Specifically, you requested:

*Under the Official Information Act 1982, I am requesting copies of court records, including but not limited to statements of claim, sworn affidavits, and the final judicial rulings/injunctions, related to a specific 1993 High Court case*

*This case is historically referred to as the "Gang of 4" lawsuit, brought against the Auckland Area Health Board (specifically concerning the management of the Auckland Drug Dependency Clinic / Methadone program).*

*One of the primary plaintiffs in this action was my father. His birth name was William Frederick Webb, though he legally operated under his adopted name, Barry Bond. In the community and historical archives, he is also frequently recorded under the surname Ryker (Barry Ryker). Please note that he passed away in 2003, and as his daughter and next of kin, I am requesting these files for the purpose of compiling a comprehensive family and historical archive.*

*To assist your search, the parameters of the request are:*

*Timeframe: 1993 (The injunction was likely granted on or shortly before May 1993).*

*Parties Involved: Barry Bond / William Frederick Webb (or under the name Barry Ryker) and three other unnamed plaintiffs vs. The Auckland Area Health Board.*

*Nature of the Claim: The plaintiffs sought an injunction to prevent the withdrawal of methadone treatment and sued for damages regarding violations of procedural due process and bodily autonomy.*

*If the formal court records are held by Archives New Zealand rather than the Ministry of Justice due to their age, I would appreciate it if you could provide the specific transfer reference numbers so I can request them directly from the archives.*

The Ministry is unable to provide the information you have requested because it is court information. 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 requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

Access to civil High Court information is managed under the High Court Rules 2016. The form to request court information is available at: [Application for access to court documents](#). Once the form has been completed you need to email it to AucklandHC@justice.govt.nz. A Judge or Registrar will review your application, and you will be contacted with their decision. A fee may apply.

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz), or via the webform: [Make a complaint \(for members of the public\) | Ombudsman New Zealand](#).

Nāku noa, nā



Andrea King  
**Group Manager, Senior, Employment, Environment and Coroners**