

29 August 2012

Heather Barker  
Fyi-request-464-b930b181@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Barker

### Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 1 August 2012 seeking information, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), on the number of ACC claimants who have committed or attempted to commit suicide while on ACC in the period of 2002-2012. You asked for the data to exclude claimants who had previously attempted suicide.

Prior to 1 July 2007, ACC did not record whether an injury was the result of wilful self-harm. In this context, wilful is where a person who has committed suicide was able to appreciate the consequences of their action. ACC does not hold records on the number of attempted suicides. For this reason, ACC is declining your request. This decision complies with section 18(g) of the Act. ACC is also unable to confirm if clients were receiving ACC entitlements at the time of suicide without an extensive manual search of individual claim files. Such a search would involve substantial collation and research.

Please contact me on [hugh.mcilraith@acc.co.nz](mailto:hugh.mcilraith@acc.co.nz) if you would like to talk about this letter. I will be happy to answer any questions or, if you have any concerns, work with you to resolve these.

If you are not happy, you may make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsmen. You can call them on 0800 802 602, 9am to 5pm weekdays, or write to:

The Office of the Ombudsmen  
P O Box 10 152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Hugh McIlraith  
**Advisor, Government Services**