

4 January 2017

Ti Lamusse

[Fyi-request-4788-954f6649@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:Fyi-request-4788-954f6649@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ti Lamusse

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 request where you requested the following:

1. *Please provide the total number of people who have died in police custody broken down by year since 1991, or even further back if records permit.*
2. *Please break down this data according to the ethnicity of the deceased person.*
3. *Please break down this data according to the gender of the deceased person.*
4. *Please break down this data for cause of death of the deceased person.*
5. *Please provide the total number of people who have died from suicide in police custody broken down by year since 1991, or even further back if records permit.*

To respond to this request, Police are reliant on serious harm reporting made to the Independent Police Conduct Authority. The Police system used to manage such reporting has evolved over time. As a result, there is limited detail for some incidents reported in this data base.

In relation to the information you request, the following is provided:

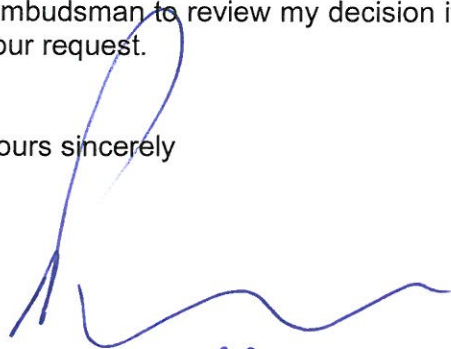
1. The total number of people who have died in police custody broken down by year since 1991

1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	2000	2001	2003	2004	2005	2008	2015
2	1	3	1	5	4	3	1	1	3	1	2	2	3

2. The ethnicity of the deceased: This information will be withheld under Section 18(e) of the Information Act because the information does not exist.
3. The gender of the deceased: Since 1992 one female is recorded as having died in custody, the rest were male.
4. & 5. The cause of death of the deceased, including the number of people who have died from suicide. Since 1992, not all records include a cause of death. Of the records that exist, 15 people have died in custody as a result of suicide, and 4 had existing medical conditions. Further information about deaths of those in custody is being withheld under Section 9(2)(a) in that police declines to release the information to protect the privacy interests of the deceased person and the family members as there is no public interest favouring the release of the information that outweighs the privacy interests of the individuals concerned.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop at the top and a wavy line extending to the right.

Chris Scahill  
Superintendent  
National Manager: Response and Operations