

16 December 2016

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Dear Daniel,

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (Act) request, received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 8 December 2016.

### You have requested:

*Could you please settle my curiosity, I recently attained a copy of my Birth Certificate and noticed a seven digit number on the back side. The numbers have no title or explanation.*

*Could you please let me know:*

- 1. What these numbers are?*
- 2. What purpose they fulfil?*

### Official response

The number that you see on the back of your Birth Certificate is a batch number for the official paper used to print all New Zealand birth, death, marriage, civil union and name change certificates.

The batch number is a sequential block of numbers used when our annual batch of certificate paper is produced. It is not used for any purpose other than to ensure the Department is able to maintain appropriate tracking and security of the unused stock of official certificate paper. While the batch number appears on all certificates, no names or registration numbers are recorded against these numbers in any of our computer systems.

You have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision under section 28 of the Official Information Act. The Ombudsman can be contacted

at: Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10152  
Wellington 6143

Yours Sincerely,



Briget Ridden  
Manager Business Improvement and Support  
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Citizenship, Authentications and Translations

