

21 November 2023

s 9(2)(a)



**Your request for Official information, reference: HNZ00031986**

Thank you for your request on 1 November 2023, which has been transferred to us by Manatū Hauora, asking for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“Please supply the link of death records in NZ, and Covid19 vaccine records in NZ - commencing February 2021. To be clear, I would like to see the number of recorded deaths who were also recorded as having received the C19 vaccination from February 2021 until now.”*

*Clarified as: “I am seeking the number of all-cause mortalities, with vaccination status – from February 2021 until now.*

We are unable to provide data relating to the number of deaths of people in New Zealand who have received the COVID-19 vaccine as it would involve manually linking mortality data to vaccine data. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) as it would require substantial collation. We have considered extending the timeframe for response and fixing a charge for supplying the information, but do not consider either option would reduce the impact on our other functions.

The following information is related to your request, and may be of interest.

Mortality rates, not including cause of death, are publicly available online from Stats NZ. They publish mortality statistics here: [www.stats.govt.nz/tools/stats-infoshare](http://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/stats-infoshare). Select ‘Populations’, and then ‘Deaths’.

For information about cause of death, Te Whatu Ora has a mortality web tool that presents mortality and demographic data for deaths registered in New Zealand from 1948 to 2020. The web tool is available at the following link: [www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/our-health-system/data-and-statistics/mortality-web-tool](http://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/our-health-system/data-and-statistics/mortality-web-tool)

Currently, 2018 is the most recent year for which final cause specific mortality data is available. Preliminary data is available for 2019 and 2020.

After the close of a calendar year, there is a 12–18 month process to assign cause of death codes to the majority of deaths in that year. Te Whatu Ora’s clinical coding team reviews the death certificate and health history of the deceased to assign cause of death codes. Approximately 10% of deaths are referred to the coroner each year to determine cause. Deaths which require a coronial inquiry can take 2-3 or more years for cause of death to be assigned. We do not make mortality data available publicly until the majority of deaths have been assigned a cause of death, so that the data we release is complete and accurate. The Chief Coroner has noted delays in the time it is taking them to determine cause of death.

## How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



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