

16 December 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-28929

Mr Wild
fyi-request-11493-d2fcf648@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Wild

I am writing in response to your Official Information Act 1982 request you submitted on 18 October 2019. Specifically you requested:

Any New Zealand Police manual, rules, guidelines, and/or standard operational policies, procedures and protocols that have relevance to an investigation of a sudden unexpected death

Including but not limited to:

- 1) Seizure and/or collection of evidence at the scene of death.*
- 2) Photographic evidence of the scene of death*
- 3) Protection of evidence at, or related to the scene of death.*
- 4) Collection of statements relevant to the death*
- 5) Police means of seizure and/or access to, and protection of evidence, relevant to the death, specifically:*
 - a) Hospital based health records of a deceased person, including both paper and electronic information.*
 - b) Electronic swipe card activity records and door entry activity records*
 - c) Personal effects of a deceased person*
 - d) Cell phone records of a deceased person*
 - e) Laptop records of a deceased person*
- 6) Moving of a deceased person*
- 7) Presentation of evidence to coronial inquiries*
- 8) Release of evidence to interested parties for the purpose of investigation to assist a coronial inquest*

Please provide this information via email or via a USB media stick for collection from Wellington Police Station.

Police act on behalf of the Coroner when investigating sudden deaths and are guided by the sudden death chapter of the Police Manual. I have attached a copy of the 'Sudden Death' chapter from the Police Manual.

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

The Coroners Act 2006 provides the legislative framework for sudden death investigations. The Act is available to view publically here:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2006/0038/latest/DLM377057.html>

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask to 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 purple ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a cursive name. The signature is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Superintendent Andrew Sissons
National Manager, Response and Operations