

Paul Roberts

By email: fyi-request-12914-d2e5ed0a@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202003867

Dear Mr Roberts

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 28 May 2020 to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for:

"First part of the request: We request you to provide a list of all Patients attributing to the current death statistic of 22 persons at the time of this writing listing the following information;

** Patient Age*

** Primary cause of death*

** List of Comorbidities*

Please note we are NOT asking for personal identifying information about these patients, rather we are just wanting a list that clearly shows the cause of death and comorbidities and which category Covid-19 falls into, eg:

Patient A, Age: 80, Cause of death: Terminally ill cancer, Comorbidities: Covid-19

Patient B, Age: 34, Cause of death: Covid-19, Comorbidities: Trauma from car accident

Patient C, Age: 86, Cause of death: Lung cancer from smoking, Comorbidities: Covid-19

...etc

Second part of the request:

Please provide a summary of Covid-19 Death data for the 22 deaths which categories Covid-19 as;

i) The primary cause of death,

ii) Covid-19 being a Comorbidity in death

For example, the following summary is what we are looking for;

Out of 22 Covid-19 related deaths, 6 of them were death by Covid-19 as the primary cause, and the remaining 16 were patients who had Covid-19 as a Comorbidity."

Information in response to part one of your request is withheld in full under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

In response to part two of your request, of the 22 COVID-19 deaths in New Zealand, all have been reported in EpiSurv as having COVID-19 as the primary cause of death.

EpiSurv is a web-based application that collates notifiable disease information on a real-time basis from the Public Health Services in New Zealand.

I trust that this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely



Jane Kelley
Director
COVID-19 Response