

20 December 2021

Sue Den Hartog

By email: fyi-request-17834-35142c4b@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202117135

Tēnā koe Sue

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 4 December 2021 for information related to stillbirth rates in New Zealand. You requested specifically:

"I would like to know the stillbirth rates in NZ from Jan-June 2021 July to Dec inc 2021. Also, the stillbirth Rates in the Auckland region for this time period also."

The Ministry does not hold stillbirth information for the period you have requested. As such, the information requested is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by any other agency subject to the Act.

This information is not yet available as births (including stillbirths) are required to be registered within six months of birth. This means the deadline for June 2021 births has not yet passed. The Ministry then needs to investigate a number of foetal deaths which have not been registered, which can take some time. The Ministry is currently finalising the number of foetal deaths for 2020.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Gaynor Bradfield
**Manager, Office of the Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital**