



8 February 2022

Chris McCashin  
[fyi-request-18008-404f6143@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-18008-404f6143@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr McCashin

**Official Information Act 1982 request – Sudden Deaths and Heart Conditions in Athletes**

This letter responds to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received by Sport New Zealand on 20 December 2021 requesting the following information:

*“- Number of persons who have died on the field/in action from 2000-2021.  
- Any and all information provided to Sport and Recreation New Zealand by Ministry of Health, any agencies, NGO's organisations warning to expect a rise of deaths in athletes and the reasons they are providing”.*

The first part of this request asks for information which is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry of Justice. For this reason, on 1 February 2022, Sport NZ decided to transfer that part of your request to the Ministry of Justice under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response from the Ministry of Justice in due course.

The second part of this request asks for information which Sport NZ does not hold. For this reason, Sport NZ declines the request under section 18(g) of the Act, which states:

*that the information requested is not held by the department or venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either—*

- (i) held by another department (for itself and for a departmental agency hosted by it or an interdepartmental executive board serviced by it) or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority; or*
- (ii) connected more closely with the functions of another department (for itself and for a departmental agency hosted by it or an interdepartmental executive board serviced by it) or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation or of a local authority.*

Please note that if you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicki Ablitt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Nicki Ablitt**  
Group Policy Manager  
Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa

