



14 June 2022

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Tēnā koe R Bailey

### **OIA request 21/22 0771 Request for death data**

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 16 May 2022.

You requested –

- *the delay/difference between the date of death registrations and the date of occurrence of deaths for the period 2018 - 2022 (current data).*
- *weekly statistics for the 2018 - 2022 (current data) period for death registration.*
- *a list of any Key Performance Indicators for the staff registering deaths. ( e.g. time between receiving death registration form details and death declaration/certification)*

I note you also made a request to Statistics New Zealand for any data they held on the time lag between date of death occurrence and date of death registration for the New Zealand population.

As advised in an email to you from Statistics New Zealand on 24 May 2022, this was transferred to our Department for response pursuant to section 14(b)(i) of the Act; the information to which the request relates is not held by the department or venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation but is believed by the person dealing with the request to be held by another department.

After having requested that you clarify the data portion of your request, you advised in an email of 27 May 2022 –

*I would like data which has the following (anonymised data);*

- *date of death*
- *date of submission*
- *date the death is actually registered*

*For each death since 1 Jan 2018 until the latest available data.*

*(e.g column headings are ID, death\_date, submission-date, registration\_date)*

*I am not seeking an average for each year.*

*I would like to work out the distribution for time between date of death to death registration. (For example 25% are <7 days after death, 25% 7-12 days, 25% 12-21 days 25% >21 days).*

*If there are 2022 deaths that are submitted, but yet to be registered it would be great to have that info as well.*

In response to your request I can provide you with the following information.

I can confirm that there is one Statement of Service Performance (SSP) for death registrations. This SSP is that 99% of death information is registered within an average of two working days. I note that this is the time between the Department receiving the registration to the point it is registered in the system.

I must advise that over 150,000 death records fell within the data portion of your request. We have therefore prepared the below two tables, providing the information you advised you were hoping to determine with the data you had requested, in lieu of a list of the individual records.

This first table shows a breakdown of the number of calendar days taken from the date of death to the date they were registered between 1 January 2018 to 31 May 2022.

Days after death	Frequency	Percent
Less than 3 days	5,153	3%
3 days - 7 days	58,641	39%
7 days - 12 days	69,554	46%
13 days - 21 days	12,796	8%
Greater than 21 days	4,572	3%

To give an idea of our processing times, this second table shows a breakdown of the number of working days taken from when the Department received death registrations until they were registered between 1 January 2018 and 31 May 2022.

Days after Received	Frequency	Percent
Less than 3 days	146,532	97.2%
3 days - 7 days	2,763	1.8%
7 days - 12 days	818	0.5%
13 days - 21 days	328	0.2%
Greater than 21 days	275	0.2%

I note that as at 31 May 2022, there were 38 death registrations received between 1 January 2022 and 31 May 2022 that were not yet registered.

### **Caveat**

Death registration data is entered manually which may impact the accuracy of this data. Therefore, although it has been collated to the best of our ability, it may have a small variance to any alternative publications.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Department has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on the DIA website. All requestor data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'T' followed by a long horizontal line.

Julia Taylor  
Manager Operational Policy and Official Correspondence  
Service Delivery and Operations