

30 November 2022

P Taylor  
fyi-request-21010-58e070da@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 100530

Tēnā koe P Taylor

**Official Information Act request: 2019 – 2020 change in suicide trend**

Thank you for your email of 2 November 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information relating to the change in suicide trend between the 2019 and 2020 reporting period. Specifically, you requested:

- *“... any information, report or communication, that seeks to explain, justify, or give an analysis of, the 2019 - 2020 turn in the direction of the trend in the suspected suicide rate.*
- *... any information demonstrating any change in the classification of confirmed cases or the classification of suspected cases between the 2019 reporting period and the 2020 reporting period.”*

On 22 November 2022, the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) advised you that the first part of your request was transferred to the Ministry of Health under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act as it more closely relates to its functions:

- *“...any information, report or communication, that seeks to explain, justify, or give an analysis of, the 2019 - 2020 turn in the direction of the trend in the suspected suicide rate.”*

In the second part of your request, you have sought information on suspected self-inflicted deaths or suicide deaths and whether the classification of these deaths has changed between the 2019 reporting period and the 2020 reporting period. In response, I can advise there has been no change to how deaths are reported to the coroner, including those deaths that appear to be self-inflicted.

It might be helpful for me to explain that the suspected self-inflicted deaths cases are provisional pending the findings being issued by the coroner, so the numbers presented may differ from previous publications.

For more information on deaths that must be reported to the coroner, please refer to sections 13 and 14 of the Coroners Act 2006 at the following link:  
[legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2006/0038/latest/whole.html#DLM377532](https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2006/0038/latest/whole.html#DLM377532)

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/](https://justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/).

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phone at 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Williams'.

Richard Williams

**Acting Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery**