

31 August 2023

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Ref: 106180

Tēnā koe Cara

### **Coronial request – Lewis Verduyn**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 21 July 2023 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) seeking the handwritten letters of Mr Lewis Verduyn from his coronial file and a copy of the coronial file provided to you in a specific way.

On 16 August 2023, the Ministry advised you that an extension of the time limit to 31 August 2023 was required due to consultation necessary to make a decision on your request. Please find below the responses to your requests.

#### ***Part one: Requesting a copy of the coronial file for Mr Lewis Verduyn***

You are requesting all information contained in Mr Verduyn's coronial file, in full, in the way it was previously provided to you throughout the open coronial investigation.

This letter is to advise you that, following consultation with the Chief Coroner, a full copy of Mr Verduyn's file in its current form, will be made available to you. Unfortunately, it will take us some time to prepare a copy of the file. A representative from the Ministry will be in contact with you directly to arrange logistics for either the transfer of the copied file, or for you to view the file. You can expect an email by 1 September 2023.

#### ***Part two: Handwritten letters of Mr Lewis Verduyn from his coronial file***

Regretfully, it will not be possible for us to meet the extended date we notified you of. The complexity of the consultation is such that a decision on your request could not be made by today. You can now expect to receive a response by 28 September 2023.

Please be assured that the Ministry will provide you with a decision on the information you have requested earlier than that new due date, if it is possible to do so. I do apologise for any inconvenience caused by the delay in delivering this information to you.

If you require any further information, please contact the Ministry of Justice Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek a review or make a complaint to the Ombudsman. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Jacquelyn Shannon  
**Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery**