

21 September 2023

Samantha Bright
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Tēnā koe Samantha

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 11 September 2023. You asked:

I am requesting the total number of deaths in the past year attended to by police please. I am particularly interested in if possible how many units attended, their response times, their time on scene and if St John attended.

I am attempting to study these collaboratively with St John statistics to open a discussion into the potential of a designated unit to free up Police units to attend other jobs.

When Police communication centres receive a request for service, an event is entered in the Communication and Resource Deployment (CARD) system. CARD events can only have one code type, and Police practice is to code the most serious risk or alleged offence. Sudden deaths would usually be coded as 1S.

Under section 17 of the Coroners Act 2006, Police has a statutory obligation to investigate sudden and unexplained deaths.

Between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, police attended 5,942 sudden deaths events. The median response time (time between event acceptance and first unit arrival) for these events was 23 minutes 5 seconds. The median attendance time (time between first unit arrival and event closure) was 3 hours and 30 minutes. The median number of units attending an event was two.

Data in this response is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is recorded or updated.

Your question about St John attendance is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that as part of its commitment to openness and transparency, Police proactively releases some information and documents that may be of interest to the

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public. An anonymised version of this response may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bronwyn Marshall', with a small comma at the end.

A/Superintendent Bronwyn Marshall
Director Emergency Communications Centres (Relieving)