

30 September 2024

K Thompson

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OIA 115221

Tēnā koe K Thompson,

**Official Information Act request: Coroners Court case closure times and cases where a vaccine has been attributed to a death**

Thank you for your email of 3 September 2024 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) requesting clarification of OIA 109160, provided to you by the Ministry on 20 February 2024. I am responding to your request under the Coroner's Act 2006 (the Act) and the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Specifically, you requested:

1. **“Can you provide Coroners Court closure times for the years 1990 to the most recent data you have, under the New Zealand Official Information Act. Can you please break down the closure times by the months of these years”.**

The Ministry is responding to this question under the OIA.

In response to your request, please see Table 1 enclosed. Table 1 provides the average age, in days, of Coroners Court cases closed in the preceding 12-month period, for the months between July 2009 and August 2024.

I can advise that the Case Management System used by the Coroners Court does not hold case closure data prior to July 2008. The Ministry is therefore refusing this part of your request in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA on the grounds that the information does not exist.

2. **“Can you also provide any data recorded by the Coroners Court, or by Statistics NZ or other agency, whether any deaths have been attributed by the Coroner to any type of vaccine or medical injection, including the MMR, the flu or the Covid vaccines/injections”**

The Ministry is responding to this question under the Act.

In response to your request, please see Table 2 enclosed. Table 2 provides the number of closed cases where a vaccination is listed as a cause of death, or contributing to the cause of death, notified to the Coroner between 1 July 2007 and 10 September 2024.

You can request the coroners Findings into these deaths by emailing [coronial.information@justice.govt.nz](mailto:coronial.information@justice.govt.nz) and quoting **OIA 115521**.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response, please contact Joe Locke, Media & Social Media Manager, on 021 636 416, or email [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz)

If you are not satisfied with the decision on information released to you under the Official Information Act 1982, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by calling 0800 802 60; or emailing [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

If you are not satisfied with the decision on information released to you under the Coroners Act 2006 you can make a complaint to the Chief Coroner. The Chief Coroner may be contacted by email at [officeofthechiefcoroner@justice.govt.nz](mailto:officeofthechiefcoroner@justice.govt.nz) or by writing to the Office of the Chief Coroner at DX SX 11166, Wellington.

I trust this information assists.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JRSL' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jacquelyn Shannon

**Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Services Delivery**

Encl: **Table 1:** The average age, in days, of Coroners Court cases closed in the preceding 12-month period, for the months between July 2009 and August 2024.  
**Table 2:** The number of closed cases where a vaccination is listed as a cause of death, or contributing to the cause of death, notified to the Coroner between 1 July 2007 and 10 September 2024.

**Table 1: The average age, in days, of Coroners Court cases closed in the preceding 12 month period, for the months between July 2009 and August 2024**

|      | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December |
|------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| 2009 | -       | -        | -     | -     | -   | -    | 177  | 182    | 186       | 189     | 194      | 197      |
| 2010 | 202     | 206      | 208   | 210   | 214 | 220  | 225  | 229    | 231       | 239     | 240      | 253      |
| 2011 | 256     | 258      | 261   | 270   | 270 | 270  | 273  | 274    | 272       | 269     | 269      | 262      |
| 2012 | 264     | 260      | 266   | 260   | 262 | 269  | 274  | 277    | 280       | 289     | 298      | 303      |
| 2013 | 303     | 309      | 307   | 314   | 324 | 326  | 331  | 335    | 344       | 346     | 339      | 338      |
| 2014 | 339     | 343      | 368   | 369   | 362 | 358  | 355  | 359    | 359       | 360     | 364      | 367      |
| 2015 | 361     | 358      | 332   | 333   | 334 | 337  | 333  | 328    | 328       | 319     | 318      | 316      |
| 2016 | 320     | 322      | 323   | 317   | 316 | 312  | 308  | 310    | 310       | 313     | 310      | 309      |
| 2017 | 307     | 303      | 304   | 307   | 308 | 312  | 325  | 325    | 322       | 320     | 324      | 324      |
| 2018 | 325     | 335      | 340   | 344   | 346 | 346  | 341  | 341    | 343       | 348     | 346      | 349      |
| 2019 | 354     | 347      | 344   | 339   | 342 | 342  | 342  | 338    | 343       | 347     | 349      | 347      |
| 2020 | 352     | 352      | 352   | 357   | 356 | 381  | 400  | 420    | 434       | 448     | 457      | 466      |
| 2021 | 464     | 476      | 490   | 488   | 492 | 477  | 471  | 479    | 476       | 473     | 477      | 479      |
| 2022 | 489     | 493      | 493   | 494   | 497 | 498  | 503  | 500    | 499       | 488     | 487      | 492      |
| 2023 | 488     | 491      | 487   | 488   | 495 | 495  | 499  | 499    | 508       | 527     | 536      | 550      |
| 2024 | 556     | 574      | 588   | 597   | 601 | 611  | 608  | 618    | -         | -       | -        | -        |

**Notes for Table 1:**

- This data was extracted from the Case Management System used by the Coroners Court on 10 September 2024 and may differ from previously released or published data.
- Cases are included based on the date the case was closed by the coroner, which can differ from the date the findings were issued.
- This data includes closed cases, which are cases that have been heard by the coroner and findings have been issued.
- The Case Management System used by the Coroners Court doesn't hold case information prior to 1 July 2007.
- Case closure data is held from July 2008 onwards, and average age data for cases closed in the preceding 12-month period is available from July 2009 onwards.
- 2024 is a partial year covering 1 January 2024 - 31 August 2024.
- Due to the manner in which information has been recorded by, or presented to the coroner, the statistics provided should not be taken as representing every case.

**Table 2: The number of closed cases where a vaccination is listed as a cause of death, or contributing to the cause of death, notified to the Coroner between 1 July 2007 and 10 September 2024**

|                            | 2021 |
|----------------------------|------|
| Deaths related to vaccines | 3    |

**Notes for Table 2:**

- This data was extracted from the Case Management System used by the Coroners Court on 10 September 2024 and may differ from previously released or published data.
- Cases are included based on the date the case was closed by the coroner, which can differ from the date the findings were issued.
- This data includes closed cases, which are cases that have been heard by the coroner and findings have been issued.
- The Case Management System used by the Coroners Court doesn't hold case information prior to 1 July 2007.
- The Case Management System used by the Coroners Court was searched for cases where the following keywords were recorded in the medical cause of death and final cause of death fields: "vaccination", "vaccine", "flu vaccine", "MMR vaccine", "MMR" and "medical injection".
- Due to the way in which information is received and recorded in the Case Management System used by the Coroners Court, it is possible that not all cases have been identified.