

14 September 2015

Joanne Turner
fyi-request-3082-c4e6daca@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201503734

Dear Joanne Turner

Response to official information request reference H201503734

Thank you for your request received on 25 August 2015 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for;

‘Information with regards to the years ending June 2014/2015 as to the total number of suicides where the person who has committed suicide has been engaged with alcohol and drug dependency services be it DHB, NGO, private or Iwi based’.

The information you have requested is not nationally collected by the Ministry of Health.

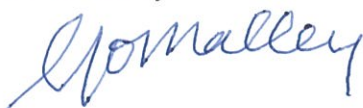
There are some practical difficulties to collect such information. While all deaths with no known cause are referred to the Coroner for investigation, the Coroner may not be aware that the individual was in alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment.

Where a sudden death of a patient in treatment occurs the service may not be able to attribute the cause as suicide until the Coroner’s report is completed.

In both instances the Coroners process can take some time to reach its conclusions and this may be in some cases years after the event.

On the basis that the information requested is not held by the Ministry I am refusing your request in accordance with section 18(e) of the Act. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse your request for information.

Yours sincerely



Cathy O'Malley
Deputy Director-General
Sector Capability and Implementation