

25 February 2016

P A Hamill  
fyi-request-3569-f87377e3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Hamill

### Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 22 January 2016.

#### Your request

You asked for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*1 / Has the Accident Compensation Corporation in the past been requested by the coroners court to supply claimant files to the coroners court so they can investigate claimants suicides.*

*2/ In the previous 12 months how many request for claimants files have been made by the coroners court.*

*3/ If the coroners court has been provided claimants files, are the claimant files the full electronic file as held by the Accident Compensation Corporation, does the coroners court have access to such areas in the claimants files as internal panel discussion notes, communications between case managers and providers, party status files, shared documents files, fraud investigation files etc.*

*Or is the file supplied to the coroner the same version of the file as supplied to a claimant when they have requested a copy of their complete file, but has many areas withheld from them. Such as party status files and shared documents, internal communication documents.*

#### Our response

ACC advises that when the Coroner needs medical information while investigating a death, this information is usually requested from the deceased person's treatment provider and not ACC.

On occasions that the Coroner has requested information from ACC, it has only been for information relevant to the Coroner's investigation - not specifically for the claimant's file. In each case, ACC:

- provides the Coroner with a summarised report of the information requested; and
- makes certain staff available to respond to any further queries the Coroner may have around the information supplied by ACC.

In the past 12 months, when the Coroner has requested information to assist in the investigation of a suicide, ACC has provided the Coroner with summarised reports on the information requested for the Coroner's investigation.

We have not advised the number of reports ACC has provided over the noted period as ACC does not disclose data below the value of four. This is done to limit the potential for specific individuals to be identified and to protect the privacy of these natural persons under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

**Queries or concerns**

If you have any questions, ACC will be happy to work with you to answer these. You can contact us at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz) or in writing to *Government Services, PO Box 242, Wellington 6140*.

You have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman about our decision. You can call them on 0800 802 602 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, or write to *The Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143*.

Yours sincerely

**Government Services**