

03 March 2017

Ian Andrews
Fyi-request-5310-76d1f997@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Andrews,

On 31st January 2017, you requested under the Official Information Act 1982 the following information:

Please provide the dates and prison name for each unnatural death in custody reported to Police by the Department of Corrections during the 2016 calendar year.

New Zealand Police is statutorily obligated to protect all private information held, including information relating to those deceased persons whose deaths were reported to Police because they were unnatural or unexpected.

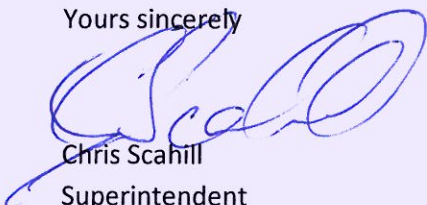
As such, the information you have requested is withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) Official Information Act 1982, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

As per section 9(1) Official Information Act, we have also considered whether there are countervailing public interest considerations favouring release of the requested information, and do not consider that such considerations are present in this case.

Furthermore, your request is refused pursuant to section 18(c)(i) Official Information Act in that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment. That enactment is section 71(2)(b) Coroners Act 2006, where no person may make available any detail (for example, the place of death) that suggests the method or any suspected method of the self-inflicted death.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



Chris Scahill
Superintendent
National Manager: Response and Operations