

**Nigel Gray**  
**Fyi-request-6486-c18focd8@requests.fyi.org.nz**

Ref: H201703549

Dear Mr Gray

**Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request of 29 August 2017 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

'It has come to my attention that the suicide rate in New Zealand is higher yet again over the last year. Can you please inform me what percentage of these suicide victims were on or had recently been on a medication. Many medications have listed as a possible side effect or adverse effect "suicidal thoughts or actions" so it seems a reasonable place to start looking as to the cause of this recent "spike" if you will forgive the use of this word.'

The information relating to this request is not available as the Ministry of Health does not collect data on the percentage of people who have died by suicide who were on or who had recently been on medication.

I have therefore decided to refuse your request under Section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that the information requested does not exist.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse the information under this request.

Yours sincerely



*P.P* Jill Lane  
Director  
Service Commissioning