



30 January 2018

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Shane Glassie

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Dear Mr Glassie

Official Information Act 1982 request 17/18-0243

Thank you for your request for information received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 18 January 2018 made via the fyi.org.nz website. This response is provided to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act).

You requested

1 ; Does the State of New Zealand class the document Birth Certificate as property of, the State of New Zealand, or New Zealand, Aotearoa or any governmental bodies or registration thereof known to have, New Zealand or the State of New Zealand in all it`s titles as their property?

2: Why does the registration of birth of a child state, that a stillborn that is over 400 grams and goes over the 20 week period of pregnancy is considered by the state of New Zealand as a stillborn child?

b ; Approximately how many citizens of New Zealand will now have registered their babies under this document as stillborn according to the governments definition on the registration form?.

Regarding your first question, the Department holds no information regarding certificates in terms of property; as a result it is necessary to refuse your request under 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist. Certificates and Printouts are documents provided by the Department containing information from Registers maintained by Births, Deaths and Marriages. The Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationship Registration Act 1995 (BDMRRA) outlines details about issuing certificates.

Regarding your second question, the definition of a still-born child is outlined in the Definition section of the BDMRRA. As the function of Births, Deaths and Marriages was part of the former Department of Justice (now Ministry of Justice) when the BDMRRA was implemented, the information you seek may be held by the Ministry of Justice. You can contact the Ministry of Justice at <https://www.justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/>

There were 385 registered stillbirths in New Zealand in 2017 and approximately 10,000 registered stillbirths since the enactment of the BDMRRA on 1 September 1995 to 31 December 2017. The figure provided is an estimate as digital records do not extend back to 1 September 1995.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Briget Ridden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Briget Ridden
Manager Business Improvement and Support
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Citizenship and Translations