

Mr Daryl Trask
fyi-request-8703-76396ae9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref. H201806357

Dear Mr Trask

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your email of 18 September 2018 to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry), in which you made the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please supply me with information on the numbers of known miscarriages and still births, by location and year, from 1950-present day (18.9.2018)

I can advise that the Ministry holds finalised data on the numbers of known still births from 1950 to 2015. This information is available in the attached spreadsheet. It is important to note:

- From 1950 to 1972, data classified by regions is not available.
- The data is available by region from 1972 to 2015, and is classified by the regions in use at the time.
- The New Zealand definition of “still birth” changed in August 1995. This means that the data from 1996 is not directly comparable to earlier years.

The information you requested on known still births from 2016 onwards is yet to be finalised. While Statistics New Zealand publishes still birth data based on registrations with Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM), this data does not capture all known still births. Some still births may not be registered with BDM or are done so belatedly. The Ministry discovers a number of unregistered still births each year through its receipt of medical certificates of cause of death. To reconcile the registered and unregistered data, the Ministry undertakes various data quality assurance processes. We are therefore unable to provide it to you at this time.

Should you find it useful, information on the number of still births registered with BDM, up to 2017, is publicly available on the Statistics New Zealand website:
<http://archive.stats.govt.nz/infoshare/SelectVariables.aspx?pxID=b34dcc58-9b4a-433b-9f6b-42573f31a0cf>

I have decided to refuse the part of your request for information on miscarriages under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the Ministry does not hold this information and has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department, Minister, organisation or local authority.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. Information about

how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please be aware that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached document may be published on the Ministry's website.

Yours sincerely



Ann-Marie Cavanagh
Chief Technology and Digital Services Officer