



7 December 2022

s 9(2)(a)

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Ref: H2022017224

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 20 November 2022 for:

*“I would like to know under the OIA how many disinterment licenses were granted in the past 12 months.”*

Since 25 November 2021, 42 disinterment licences have been issued.

*“How many of these disinterments that proceeded were attended by a public health nurse.”*

Disinterments may be attended by a health protection officer, not a public health nurse, but this is not mandatory. Manatū Hauora does not hold information on how many disinterments are attended by a health protection officer. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by Manatū Hauora and there are no grounds for believing it is connected more closely with the functions with another agency subject to the Act.

*“If they were not attended by a public health nurse i would like to know the reasons given for this decision”*

The requirement for a health protection officer to supervise the disinterment had been a standard condition on a disinterment licence but was removed, as it is not a public health priority. If the funeral director is experienced and the disinterment is straight forward, Manatū Hauora have advised health protection officers that there is no need for a health protection officer to attend. But if there are risks, such as the remains are in a difficult condition or public health staff have other reasons (for example, to give a new staff member experience), then the health protection officer has the option of attending.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

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The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Chambers".

Jane Chambers  
**Group Leader, Public Health Policy and Regulation**  
**Public Health Agency, Ministry of Health**