

16 July 2020

By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202004785

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred from the Office of the Minister of Health to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 25 June 2020 for:

“For the period March to May inclusive, 2020, provide statistics as follows.

- Death for C19, 22 as we know.*
- Death from flu.*
- Death from pneumonia.*

For the period March to May inclusive, 2019.

- Death from flu.*
- Death from pneumonia.*

For the period March to May inclusive, 2018.

- Death from flu.*
- Death from pneumonia.*

For the period March to May inclusive, 2017.

- Death from flu.*
- Death from pneumonia.”*

At present, the Ministry is not publicly releasing cause of death information after 2016, as there is a large number of cases of deaths with no known cause which are awaiting coronial investigation. However, we can provide preliminary data for influenza and pneumonia deaths in New Zealand for 2017.

- The preliminary number for influenza deaths in 2017 is 121
- The preliminary number for pneumonia deaths in 2017 is 746

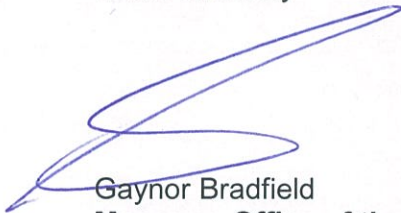
As the Ministry does not yet hold mortality data for 2018, 2019, or 2020, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

There are over 30,000 deaths recorded in New Zealand every year. The Ministry releases official figures on cause of death once there is a recorded cause for the majority of these deaths. This is to ensure the Ministry does not misrepresent the situation. This sometimes takes several years to complete as coroners often conduct extensive inquiries before rendering their verdict. If you have any further interest in this data, the Ministry publishes mortality data online here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/mortality-data-and-stats>.

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.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website

Yours sincerely



Gaynor Bradfield
Manager, Office of the Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital