

30 July 2020

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Ref: H202005103

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred from the Department of Internal Affairs and received by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 9 July 2020 for:

- “1. Out of the people who have died of Covid19 in NZ how many have tested positive for Covid19?*
 - 2. Out of the people who have died of Covid19 in NZ and NOT tested positive please advise if they have received a negative test or were not tested.*
 - 3. Out of the people who have died of Covid19 in NZ and tested positive can you please list their ages and other comorbidities.*
- Please confirm the total Covid19 deaths as at the date you provide this information.”*

Information in response to each part of your request is as follows.

- 1. Out of the people who have died of Covid19 in NZ how many have tested positive for Covid19?*

Of the 22 deaths, 17 tested positive for COVID-19.

- 2. Out of the people who have died of Covid19 in NZ and NOT tested positive please advise if they have received a negative test or were not tested.*

Of the five deceased cases who did not test positive for COVID-19, four tested negative and one was not tested.

The four cases that tested negative and the one case who was not tested, were classified as probable cases based on the case definition. Therefore, they were deemed to have died due to COVID-19. The case definitions are publicly available on the Ministry website:

https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/case_definition_of_covid_19_infection_17july2020.pdf.

For context, two of the four tested negative before becoming a confirmed case and were not tested again after being reported as a probable case. One of the four was only tested once, 27

days after the onset date of symptoms. The fourth tested negative twice before the onset of symptoms and then tested negative again four days after the onset of symptoms.

3. Out of the people who have died of Covid19 in NZ and tested positive can you please list their ages and other comorbidities.

Of the 17 cases who tested positive for COVID-19, eight had underlying conditions. Details on the comorbidities of those individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Please refer to the table below for the age group of the deceased individuals who tested positive for COVID-19.

| Age Group | Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases |
|------------------|---|
| 60 to 79 | 7 |
| 80 to 89 | 5 |
| 90+ | 5 |
| Total | 17 |

Please confirm the total Covid19 deaths as at the date your provide this information.

As of 9 July 2020 (the date your request was received by the Ministry), there have been a total of 22 deaths as a result of COVID-19 in New Zealand.

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



Natalie Richardson
Director
COVID-19 Health System Response