

**CORPORATE OFFICE**

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9(2)(a)

**RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10746**

I refer to the email dated 4 November 2021 advising you would be making the following request for information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB on behalf of 'Thinking Kiwis'. Specifically:

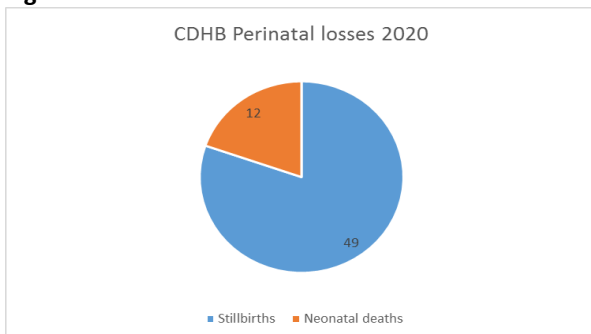
- 1. Would you please supply the total of 'Medical Certificate of Causes of Fetal and Neonatal Death' forms that have been filled out, per month, since June 2020 to date in your District Health Board area. (Ministry of Health web page reference: <https://bit.ly/3mGoO1q> ) 1a.) Please separate into Fetal Deaths and Neonatal Deaths per month. If permissible, please advise the cause of death.**

The information for question 1 is not held in an easily retrievable electronic data system and would be held on individual clinical notes for women and babies. We would need to recall the files for the past 17 months and review manually. This would take a substantial amount of time and resource. We are therefore declining the first part of your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act i.e. 18(f) "...the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research". Our response for Question 1a follows.

In 2020 there were 61 losses in the Canterbury DHB.

- 49 babies were stillborn
- 12 were neonatal deaths

**Fig1**



The information in **Fig 2** (below) was classified using the Perinatal Society of Australia and NZ (PSANZ) classification system as to the primary cause of death.

Fig 2

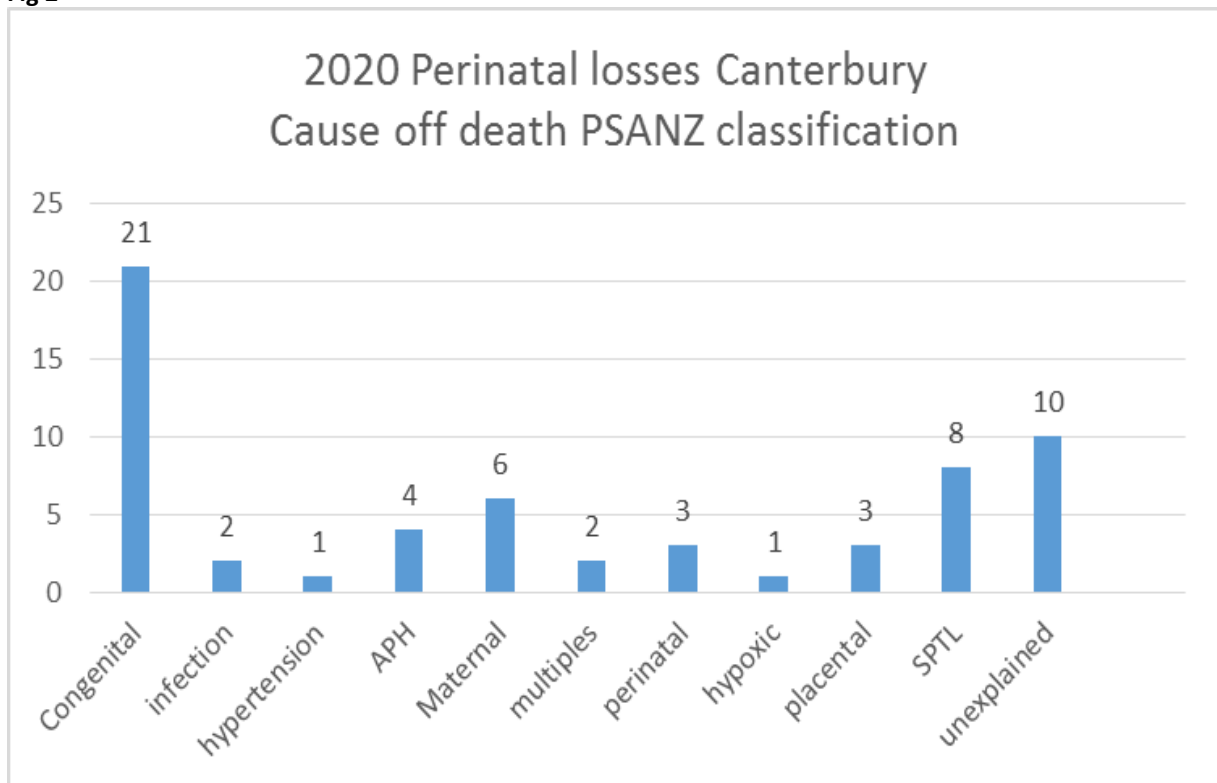
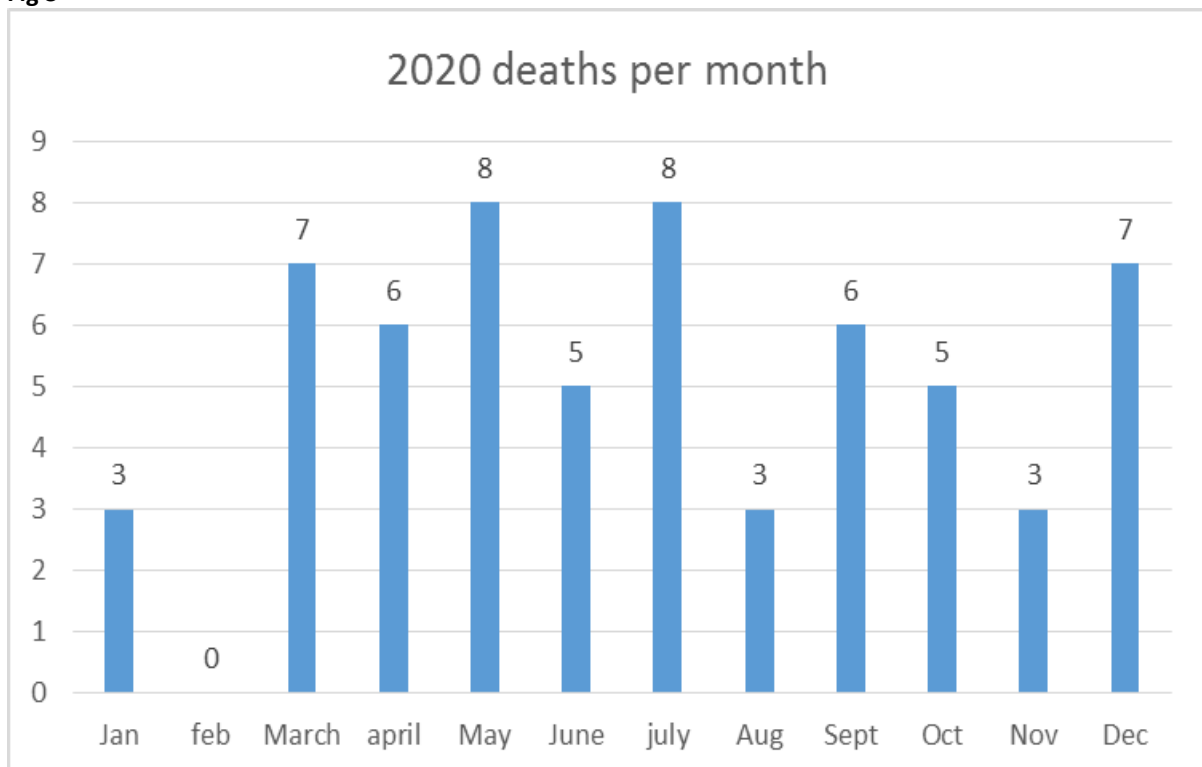
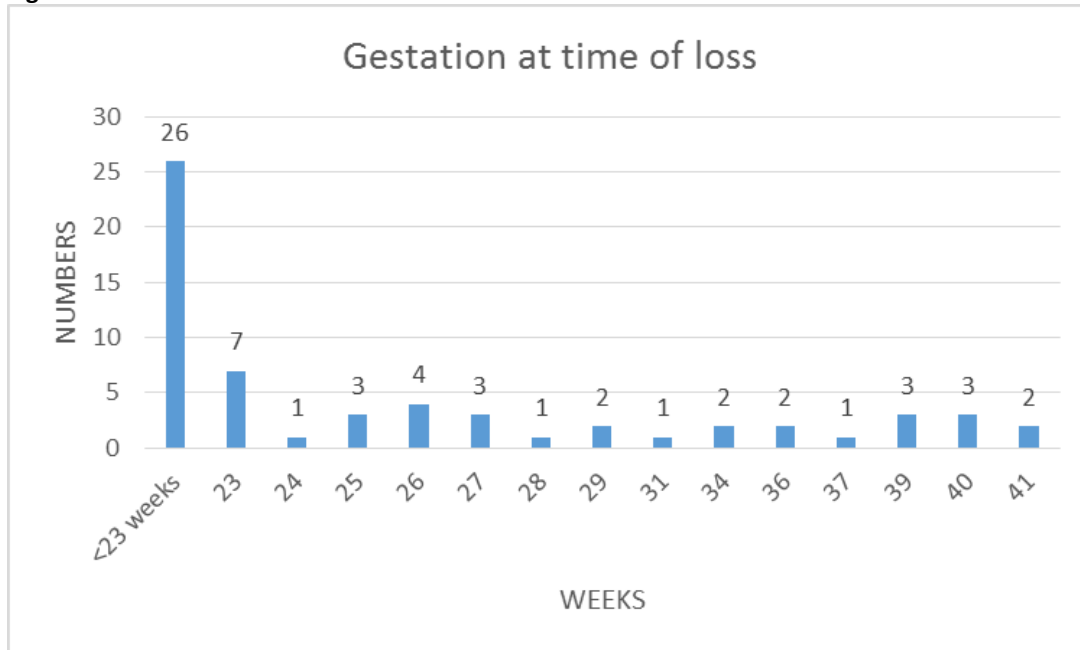


Fig 3



I think it is relevant to look at the gestation of the death this is the graph (Fig 4) for 2020. As you can see there are many babies born prior to 23 weeks

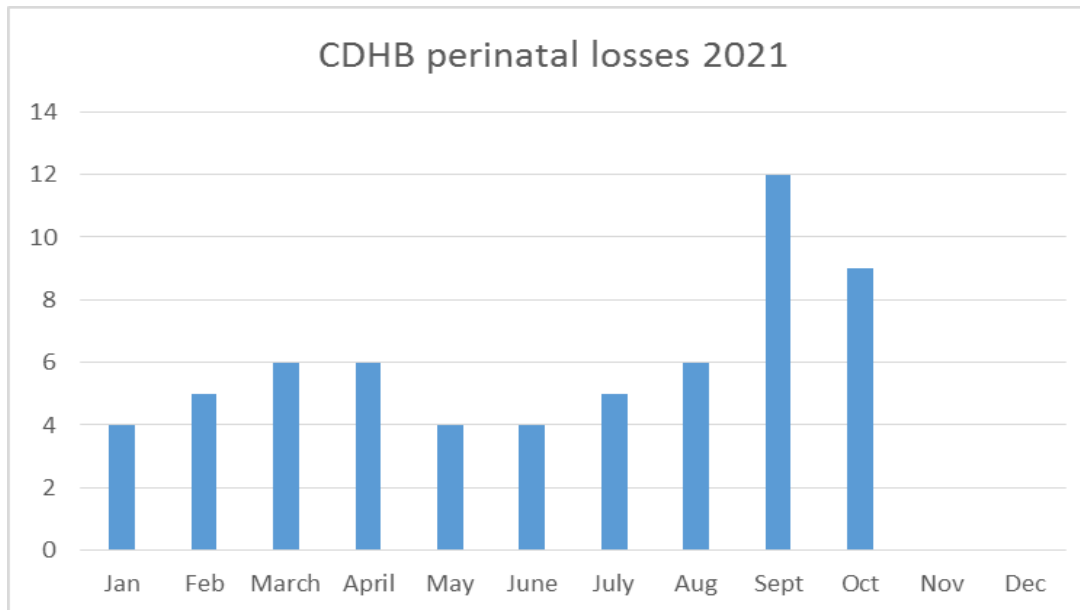
**Fig 4**



To date 2021 figures (January – October 2021) are (Fig 5):

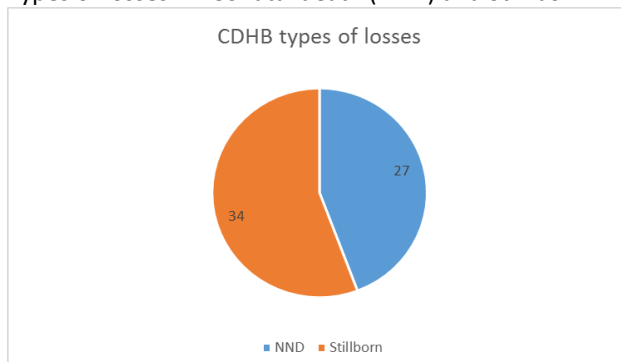
**Fig 5**

61 losses for 10 months to date



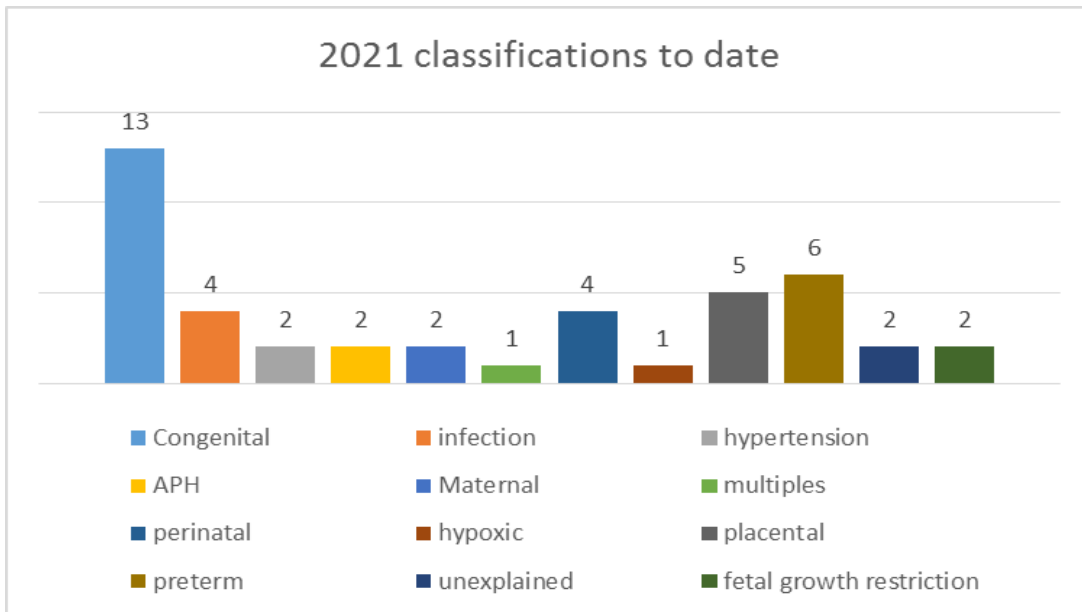
**Fig 6**

Types of losses – Neonatal death (NND) and Still born



Not all have been classified yet but of the 44 the table below (Fig 7) shows the majority have congenital anomaly. Followed by Spontaneous preterm delivery

Fig 7



I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz); or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Maisey  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**