

## CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1  
32 Oxford Terrace  
Christchurch Central  
**CHRISTCHURCH 8011**

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160  
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165  
**[carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz)**

18 June 2019

9(2)(a)

### RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10109

I refer to your email dated 20 May 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

- 1. I would like to know how many patients in your in-patient mental health units have died in the past year while being there. If you could please break these down into gender and age as well that'd be great. Also, I know this may not be possible due to privacy, but if you could can I please have cause of death (e.g. self-inflicted or not) and dates they happened.**

There have been four inpatient deaths in our mental health units over the past twelve months. This number may include the death of an inpatient while on leave from a Canterbury Mental Health facility and deaths due to natural causes. A death can only classified as suicide by a coroner on completion of the coroner's inquiry. However it can take between 12 and 36 months for a coroners finding to have been received and documented.

Because of the very low number we are declining to break this data down by gender, age and cause of death under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act i.e. *"...to protect the privacy of natural persons including that of deceased natural persons."*

If you disagree with our decision to withhold information you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek an investigation and review of our decision from 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.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

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



Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**