



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

20 November 2018

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 9971 and WCDHB 9243

We refer to your email dated 8 November 2018, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB.

- 1. The total number of people who have died by suicide in your district since May 2018, including sex, age group and ethnicity. Please also provide any information about concerns or trends you may have identified in connection with these deaths.**

A death can only be classified as suicide by a coroner on completion of the coroner's inquiry. However it can take between 12 and 36 months for a coroner's finding to have been received and documented. Deaths in the time frame requested are unlikely to have been considered by the Coroner at this stage. All people over the period in question who died while in (SMHS) Mental Health Services inpatient care or under a Compulsory Treatment Order under the Mental Health Act while in community care would have been referred for an inquest to the Coroner's Office.

As the Coroner has not ruled on deaths in this time frame, release of this information would contravene Section 71 of the Coroner's Act.

The Chief Coroner releases national provisional suicide statistics each year to help suicide prevention efforts and initiatives undertaken by other agencies. <https://coronialservices.justice.govt.nz>

We have also published previous responses for Official Information Act requests relating to suicide on our websites which you may find of interest:

https://www.cdhb.health.nz/about-us/document-library/?_sft_document_type=official-information-act-response
https://www.wcdhb.health.nz/about-us/document-library/?_sft_document_type=official-information-act-response

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

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director - Planning, Funding & Decision Support