

4 August 2022

9(2)(a)



RE Official information request ChChD (Canterbury District) 10924

I refer to your email dated 5 July 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Waitaha Canterbury. Specifically:

For the first six months of 2022.

1. The number of miscarriages

There were 218 miscarriages.

2. The number of ectopic pregnancies

There were 107 ectopic pregnancies.

3. The number of molar pregnancies

There were nine molar pregnancies

4. The number of live births

There were 2876 live babies delivered.

5. Number of perinatal deaths and neonatal deaths.

There was a total of six perinatal / neonatal deaths (excluding miscarriages). We are declining to break this down any further pursuant to the following section of the Official Information Act.

- **Section 9(2)(a)** of the Official Information Act, i.e. *“...to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.”* We have considered whether the public interest in releasing the information outweighs the need to protect the privacy of individual patients and have determined that it does not. Disclosing the exact numbers creates the risk that individuals will be identifiable. The general expectation that medical records will be kept confidential means that any patients concerned are entitled to rely on Waitaha Canterbury not to create the risk that they will be identified.

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; 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 Waitaha Canterbury website after your receipt of this response.

Ngā mihi / Yours sincerely,



Ralph La Salle
Senior Manager, OIAs
Waitaha Canterbury / Te Tai o Poutini West Coast.