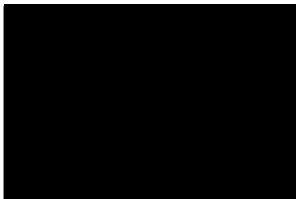




Waitemata
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

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North Shore City 0740
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28 November 2018



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act Request – suicide clusters

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 8 November 2018 seeking the following of the Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

"I am seeking information about suicide clusters and spikes since May this year. This follows such events in Porirua and Otaki this year.

Please provide under the Official Information Act the total number of people who have died by suicide in your district since May, including sex, age group and ethnicity.

Please also provide any information about concerns or trends you may have identified in connection with these deaths".

DHBs do not routinely collect, or code, cause of death information, including suicides. Cause of death information comes from the Department of Internal Affairs or the Coroner's Office.

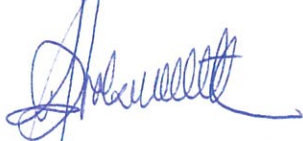
As the Coroner has not ruled on deaths in this time frame, the information is not available. Further, I note that release of this information, if it was available, may contravene Section 71 of the Coroner's Act. Therefore, we are not able to provide the information requested.

Waitemata DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Holdsworth', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then loops back down.

Dr Debbie Holdsworth
Director Funding
Auckland & Waitemata District Health Boards