



15 November 2021

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: OIA request – Fetal and neonatal deaths**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 3 November 2021 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the number of fetal and neonatal deaths from June 2020.

On 3 November, we received a request from the email address [ThinkingKiwis@protonmail.com](mailto:ThinkingKiwis@protonmail.com), signed with the initials 'TK'.

On 4 November, we asked the requester to confirm their eligibility to make an OIA request in New Zealand and they advised that they were submitting the request under your name and email address. Our initial email to you on 4 November bounced back as we had been provided with an incorrect email address. On 8 November, we were able to source your correct email address and advised that we would provide a response to you, as advised by 'TK'.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

- 1. 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.**

There is no register of forms completed. However, we do record the number of stillbirths and neonatal deaths and are able to provide this information. Please note that late neonatal deaths (i.e. up to 28 days) after discharge from hospital are not recorded in our systems.

Please note that the following information provides hospital data only as deaths that occur in the community are reported directly to the coroner.

The total number of babies born at our hospitals from June 2020 - Oct 2021 inclusive was 9528.

**Stillbirths and neonatal deaths from June 2020 to October 2021 at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals**

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21
Stillbirth	5	3	2	4	3	2	1	2	3	5	2	5	8	3	4	4	2
Neonatal death	2	0	3	2	2	3	2	1	4	2	2	1	1	3	3	0	2

**2. If permissible, please provide the cause of death**

It is not possible to share individual causes of death as they are not electronically recorded. However, the leading causes of death are fetal abnormality, extreme prematurity and termination of pregnancy.

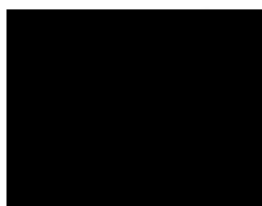
National information about perinatal mortality is publicly available via the National Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee (PMMRC) report <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/pmmrc/publications-and-resources/publication/4210/>

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community 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 consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



**Executive Director Hospital Services  
Waitematā District Health Board**