

9 December 2021

**Response to a request for official information**

Thank you for your request for official information received 17 November 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, where you seek the following information:

- 1. The total of 'Medical Certificate of Causes of Fetal and Neonatal Death' forms filled out, per month, since June 2020 to date in your District Health Board area. Please separate into Fetal Deaths and Neonatal Deaths per month. If permissible please advise the cause of death.**

**NMH response:** Completed *Medical Certificate of Causes of Fetal and Neonatal Death* are not electronically captured in one place. This response would necessitate a significant amount of time and resource to manually search individual files, and would take staff away from their work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services. As such, NMH declines to respond under section 18(f) *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*. We do, however, record the number of births and deaths (Stillborns and Liveborns Deceased within 7 days of birth) at DHB facilities, as outlined below.

**TABLE ONE**

| Calendar Year | Births | Deaths of babies |
|---------------|--------|------------------|
| 2020          | 1348   | 9                |
| 2021ytd       | 1128   | 10               |

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or free phone 0800 802 602. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator [OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz). I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, 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.

Yours sincerely

Lexie O'Shea  
**Chief Executive**

<sup>1</sup> Nelson Marlborough District Health Board