

23 December 2021

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**Re Official Information Request for Miscarriages, Stillbirths and Vaccination Data**

I refer to your official information request dated 16 November 2021 and transferred to Auckland DHB 26 November for the following information

**Can you please tell me the following information for the Auckland DHB**

- 1) What has been the total number of miscarriages and the total number of stillbirths for the year 2021 so far for the year 2021 to date being November 15?**
- 2) How many miscarriages by month and how many stillbirths by month?**
- 3) For this same timeframe (2021 up until November 15) can you please also tell me
  - a. how many stillbirths there were for those who had either a single or double dose of the Pfizer Covid-19 Vaccine and separate this data accordingly?**
  - b. Can you please also tell me how many stillbirths and miscarriages there were for those who have not received any Covid-19 vaccine?****
- 4) If possible could you please divide the above information up by vaccine status and week that the stillbirth or miscarriage happened?**

Response

Our response to the information you have requested is enclosed below.

The information for the year-to-date data for questions 1 and 2. does not yet exist in a form that could be supplied to you.

Similarly, the information you request under Q3 & Q4 does not exist in the forms you request it because we do not collate vaccination information from our Women's Health Services patients who miscarry/have still births. We cannot supply information that does not exist.

We also ask that you note that we only have data about miscarriages for women who are treated at Auckland City Hospital Women's Health Services. There is a risk of epidemiological distortion in taking this proportion of all the Auckland population women who miscarry. There is another in that we do not know when women were exposed to the vaccine at a relevant time for miscarriage or

stillbirth. Information on exposure to vaccine and miscarriage is really only able to be analysed from the vaccine register and with subsequent follow-up data.

We are therefore unable to provide the information requested as it would require the review of individual clinical records of patients. Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files over the course of 11 months and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review 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 freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Dotchin". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Margaret" and the last name "Dotchin" clearly legible. There is a small flourish at the end of the signature.

Margaret Dotchin  
**Acting Chief Executive**