

12 September 2022

9(2)(a)



**RE Official information request WCD 9736 HNZ 3754**

I refer to your email dated 8 September 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Te Tai o Poutini West Coast. Specifically:

1. **How many West Coast residents have sought assisted dying to end their lives since the service became available last November?**
2. **How many of those requests were approved?**
3. **How many of those approvals were actioned?**
4. **How many West Coast medical practitioners provide an assisted dying service?**
5. **If the West Coast has no assisted dying medical practitioners, do patients have to travel for the service or will a practitioner from elsewhere travel to the Coast?**
6. **If the latter, where have those practitioners come from to date?**

We are declining your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act i.e. *"...the information requested is not held by Te Tai o Poutini West Coast."*

We believe that your request would be best responded to by the Ministry of Health as they are responsible for overseeing and monitoring the assisted dying service, including collecting data, and advise you to send your request to them.

I refer you to the Ministry of Health website link (below)

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/life-stages/assisted-dying-service/assisted-dying-service-data-and-reporting>

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](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 Te Tai o Poutini West Coast 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.**

**TeWhatuOra.govt.nz**

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**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government