



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400
Fax 03 769-7791

9 November 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request WCDHB 9489

I refer to your email dated 3 November 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- 1. Have there been any suicides of people while in the care of the DHB in the past year? (On the ward)?**

There have been no suicides of people while in the care of the West Coast DHB (on the ward) in the past year.

- 2. Have there been any suicides by someone within a week of discharge over the past year?**

There have been no suicides by someone within a week of discharge over the past year.

- 3. Have there been any suicides by someone living in the community with support in the past year?**

Because of the very small numbers involved in this category of your request we are declining to provide any further detail pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act i.e. “....to protect the privacy of natural persons, including those deceased”.

As the Coroner has not ruled on any deaths in this time frame, release of this information would also contravene Section 71 of the Coroner’s Act.

***Please note:**

A death can only be classified as suicide by a coroner on completion of the coroner’s inquiry. However, it can take between 12 and 36 months for a coroner’s finding to have been received and documented. Deaths within the time frame requested are therefore unlikely to have been considered by the Coroner at this stage. All people over the period in question who died while in (SMHS) Mental Health Services inpatient care or under a Compulsory Treatment Order under the Mental Health Act while in community care would have been referred for an inquest to the Coroner’s Office.

The Chief Coroner releases national provisional suicide statistics each year to help suicide prevention efforts and initiatives undertaken by other agencies. <https://coronialservices.justice.govt.nz>

We have also published previous responses for Official Information Act requests relating to suicide on our website which you may find of interest. (Keyword to search: Suicide)

https://www.wcdhb.health.nz/about-us/document-library/?_sft_document_type=official-information-act-response

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Ralph La Salle
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support