



2 July 2020

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Dear [REDACTED]

### Your Official Information Act request

1. Thank you for your request of 26 June 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*Under the provisions of the Official information Act, I seek information and statistics held by HQSC relating to:*

1. *the number of deaths of women in domestic violence incidents at the hand of men wielding weapons in New Zealand, for each year, over the past 10 years, and*
2. *the number of deaths reported in the answer to my first question, where the weapon was a firearm, for each year, over the past 10 years, and*
3. *the number of deaths reported in the answer to my second question, where the perpetrator was a firearm licence holder at the time of the violence.*

2. The information you have requested is prepared and held by the Family Violence Death Review Committee (the Committee). The Committee is not subject to the OIA because of the personally identifiable, confidential nature of the information that it collates. That is provided for in paragraph (a) of the definition of "organisation" in section 2 of the OIA, the relevant part of which states that an organisation means "*an organisation named in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Ombudsmen Act 1975 (other than mortality review committees)...*".
3. The Committee would be able to provide you with information requested in your first question, however further clarification is required. You will notice from the Committee's *Fifth Report data* that weapons can include: guns; knives, scissors, a box cutter; a crowbar, a broken garden implement, axes, a drill, iron bars, a mallet; ties, constraints, lengths of rope, electrical cord, masking tape; baseball bats and chair legs (page 46). Indeed, fists and cars are also used as weapons in physically violent acts. Your definition of 'weapon' would be helpful to accurately respond to this question [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Alternatively, the Committee's Fifth Report data provides data up to 2015 with the above definition of 'weapon'. You can find the Fifth Report at <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/fvdrp/publications-and-resources/publication/2434/>

4. The Committee has declined your request for *'the number of deaths reported in the answer to my first question, where the weapon was a firearm, for each year, over the past 10*

years'. Due to there being a small number of deaths by firearms, per year, over the past 10 years, the information provided will potentially be identifiable to the reader.

5. Furthermore, the Committee is unable to provide a response to your third request *'the number of deaths reported in the answer to my second question, where the perpetrator was a firearm licence holder at the time of the violence'*. The Committee does not hold information on licence status unless it has been provided by the police, or unless it has been specifically sought (which would be for an internal purpose rather than to provide it to a third party). We would suggest that you seek this information from the police.
6. If you wish to provide a response to this letter, please contact us by emailing [info@hqsc.co.nz](mailto:info@hqsc.co.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dr Janice Wilson  
**Chief Executive**