

31 August 2026

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 27 August 2026 seeking:

1. *An explanation of why the publicly reported figure of 3,232 serious healthcare-harm events for 2024/25 combines deaths with severe and major loss of function, rather than publishing the number of deaths separately.*

Our response

Under Section 80(1) of the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Act 2022, the Commission is required to determine quality and safety indicators (such as serious (SAC 2) and sentinel (SAC 1) events) for use in measuring the quality and safety of services; and to provide public reports on the quality and safety of services as measured against the quality and safety indicators.

The public reports can be accessed via the [public facing dashboard](#) under related publications. The public reporting reflects the SAC 1 indicator as defined and approved for quality and safety reporting purposes, which combines deaths with severe and major loss of function.

Separate reporting of deaths has not been included in the annual dashboard to date, although the information can be extracted from the underlying data.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact us at info@hqsc.govt.nz.

Please note the Commission publishes some of its Official Information Act responses on its website, after the response is sent. We will not publish your name, address, or contact details.

You are entitled, under section 28(2) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman.

Nāku noa, nā



Prof Sunny Collings
Chief Executive
Health Quality & Safety Commission Te Tāhū Hauora