

ENQ-37196-G5W5S0

Date: 7 October 2019

[REDACTED]

Via [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Dear [REDACTED]

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I refer to your request received by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on 23 September 2019, for the following information:

- *How many people are typically buried at sea in New Zealand every year.*

Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Please find the data attached.

The EPA is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZ Act) and its regulations, including monitoring and enforcement. The EEZ Act aims to promote the sustainable management of natural resources in the EEZ and continental shelf, as well as to protect the EEZ and continental shelf from pollution by regulating discharges and dumping.

At a practical level, the EPA is responsible for deciding certain marine consents, monitoring compliance with the EEZ Act, and enforcing the requirements of the EEZ Act and associated regulations and consents granted under it.

The associated regulations include the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects—Burial at Sea) Regulations 2015 (the Regulations). The EPA's role under the Regulations is to assess proposals for burials at sea against the criteria in the Regulations; to issue a Certificate of Compliance if a proposal complies with the rules; notify affected parties, and assess whether the burial has taken place in accordance with the Regulations.

Affected parties are every iwi, hapū, customary marine title group, and protected customary rights group whose existing interests the EPA considers may be affected by the activity. The affected parties are notified of the date and location of the disposal (the Regulations do not include a power to undertake consultation or engagement).

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via [ministerials@epa.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@epa.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Gina de Graaff  
Acting Director  
**Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement**

**Appendix One: Number of burials at sea**

The following table shows the number of burials at sea in New Zealand for each financial year since the Regulations came into force:

*Table One: Burials at Sea since 2015*

<b>Financial Year (1 July to 30 June)</b>	<b>Number of Burials at Sea</b>
2015-2016	1
2016-2017	0
2017-2018	1
2018-2019	1
2019-2020 (to date)	1