

27 September 2023

C172193

Diana K

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Tēnā koe Diana

Thank you for your email of 21 August 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about OIA requests. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

We take our legislative obligations under the OIA seriously. We continuously work to enhance our capabilities to uphold the principles of the OIA and promote open and transparent government. We are committed to a culture of continuous improvement and acknowledge there is always more we can do to enhance official information practice.

Corrections received approximately 15,000 pieces of correspondence in the 2022/23 financial year. Of these roughly 10,000 were requests made under the OIA, which is an increase of 150% in OIAs responded to since the 2017/18 financial year.

You requested:

*I request the number of OIA requests over the last three years broken down by month and number of days to respond that Corrections has identified as being from media or public organisations (such as the New Zealand Herald or Taxpayers' Union) and therefore has been through the formal OIA process - ie. a table broken down number of these OIAs by year, number received per month, and the number of working days to respond. Further to this, I request how many of these OIAs were extended and how many requests were sent out late.*

*I also request, the number of OIA requests over the last three years, broken down by month received, that Corrections has not identified as being from media or public organisations and the number of days it has taken to respond to each of those requests. Further to this, I request how many of these OIAs were extended and how many requests were sent out late.*

Most OIA correspondence received directly at prisons or Community Corrections sites are managed onsite. Work is underway to record these requests centrally, but we are currently unable to capture this data. Therefore, your request for the number of OIA requests

received by the Department of Corrections is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

The figures provided in this response represent OIA requests received by Corrections' Ministerial Services and Media teams at National Office as this is the data we currently collate centrally. In accordance with Corrections' reporting practices, statistics on responses Corrections has sent are reported in the month the response was sent, rather than the month the request was received.

We note you have requested information about requests which are made by media and public organisations and have therefore been through "*the formal OIA process*". Corrections responds to all OIA requests in accordance with our legislative obligations, which remain same regardless of whether or not the person making the request is doing so on behalf of a media or public organisation.

Please find attached, as Appendix One, a table showing the total number of OIA responses Corrections has responded to each month and year from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023, as well as the average number of working days taken to respond, the number extended and the number sent late. Responses are broken down by those identified as being sent to public organisations and those sent to all other requesters.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Rebecca Powell  
Deputy Chief Executive - Acting  
People and Capability