



31 May 2019

[fyi-request-10016-c95da76a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10016-c95da76a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ti Lamusse

Dear Ti Lamusse,

I refer to your email of 5 April 2019, requesting statistics from the New Zealand Parole Board under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Please find **attached** a spreadsheet with the relevant statistics in response to these questions:

1. *The total number of people who appeared before the Parole Board per annum, as far back as records permit. Please break this down by ethnicity and gender.*
2. *The total number of people who have been granted parole per annum, as far back as records permit. Please break this down by ethnicity and gender.*
3. *The success rate of applications for parole, broken down by the application attempt number (i.e. successful attempt rate at first parole application, second application etc.). Please break this down per annum as far back as records permit. Please break this down by ethnicity and gender.*
4. *The number of prisoners per annum who are released from prison, having served their full sentence per annum, as far back as records permit. Please break this down by ethnicity and gender.*

It is important to note that offenders do not apply for parole and the Board has no say over what cases come its way. An individual's parole eligibility date is set by law, which pays no heed to ethnicity or gender. The Board only sees offenders serving long-term sentences of more than two years, once a third of the sentence is served or the minimum non-parole period has passed.

There are many factors in determining the point in time when an offender can be released on parole. These factors generally include (but are not limited to) completion of rehabilitation programmes, progress on reintegration activities, suitability of accommodation, and availability of employment. If the offender has been in a gang or associated with a gang, they are likely to remain in prison longer. Above all, the Board cannot authorise a release on parole if an individual presents an undue risk to the safety of the community.

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I have asked the Department of Corrections to conduct qualitative research, to enable further insight on the statistics you have been provided with.

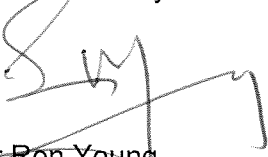
Your remaining requests for *"the total number of parole conditions handed down per annum, as far back as records permit"* and *"the mean number of parole conditions handed down per annum, as far back as records permit"* are refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

The request would entail manually reviewing all of the Board's files since June 2002 (when the Board was established under the Parole Act 2002) and counting the total number of parole release conditions. The Board holds more than 8,000 hearings per year, and its files therefore number in their thousands.

I have considered whether fixing a charge (under section 15) or extending the time limit to respond to you under section 15A would enable this request to be granted, but in my view it would not.

You have the right to seek the Ombudsman's investigation and review of my refusal to provide you with this information. The Ombudsman's address is PO Box 10 152, Wellington 6143. You may also make a complaint online at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sir Ron Young', written over a horizontal line.

Sir Ron Young  
Chairperson