

10 June 2019

C108203

Ti Lamusse
fyi-request-10316-549c13db@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ti Lamusse

Thank you for your email of 15 May 2019, requesting information about Corrections' expenditure for prison capacity expansion. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The total prison population increased from 9,532 as at 30 June 2016, to a peak of 10,820 in March 2018. There are a range of factors that influence the prison population, including arrests, court decisions, releases and seasonal trends.

Corrections is working to support the Government's target to reduce the prison population by 30 percent over 15 years and improve the wellbeing of people in the Corrections system. Currently, the population is around 1,500 prisoners below the 2017 Justice Sector forecast. As at 31 May 2019, the total prison population was 10,032.

While a decline in prisoner numbers since March 2018 has helped to relieve pressure on the network, Corrections is continuing to plan for future population changes. We are creating a more resilient and effective prison system that supports prisoner rehabilitation by adding new, modern capacity to our prison network.

Given the nature of the custodial environment, Corrections requires buildings to be constructed to a high standard and be fit for purpose as prisoner accommodation. Corrections is committed to ensuring that any new prison places are durable and meet all expected standards, to support the wellbeing of prisoners and our staff in the years to come.

Please provide me with the total expenditure on prison capacity expansion, per annum as far back as records permit. Please provide this to me in an excel spreadsheet

The information you have requested is publicly available, and your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(d) of the OIA.

Corrections reports annually on capital project costs through the Justice Select Committee Annual Review process. In recent years, this reporting has included a breakdown of expenditure by project type, including Prison Capacity Programmes, Prison Development, and Other Property Projects, with further breakdowns by labour and non-labour costs.

Corrections' responses to Annual Review questions are published annually on Parliament's website. For details of Corrections' capital project expenditure during the 2017/18 and 2016/17 financial years, please refer to the responses to Question 22 of the following reports:

https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/52SCJU_EVI_81020_JU65581/ac4de2bd6ce6603be257284490a7bca333abd2b7

https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/52SCJU_EVI_75412_7026/6ec3da701af2fa12e84818352678589b9cb31f35


Previous years' reports, which contain similar levels of information about Corrections' capital project expenditure, may be accessed using the search function on the Submissions and Advice section of Parliament's website, at: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/>

To assist you to locate previous years' reports, we would recommend refining your search by entering "*Department of Corrections*" AND "*Annual Review*" into the 'Keyword' field of the filtering section on this webpage.

We have noted your request to be provided with this data in an excel spreadsheet. However, the information you have requested is publicly available online, within searchable documents. As such, Corrections considers that a refusal of your request in accordance with section 18(d) of the OIA is applicable in this case.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these 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.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Lightfoot
Deputy Chief Executive