

29 November 2019

C114516

Lance O'Riley  
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Tēnā koe Mr O'Riley

Thank you for your email of 18 October 2019, requesting information about the prison population. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You have requested:

*For each calendar year since 2000 please provide the following as at 31st of December each year.*

*The average number of previous convictions the prison population had at the time*

- (1,a) Of these, how many convictions were a category 1 offence*
- (1,b) Of these, how many convictions were a category 2 offence*
- (1,c) Of these, how many convictions were a category 3 offence*
- (1,d) Of these, how many convictions were a category 4 offence*

*The average number of times that offenders had previously been incarcerated*

- (2,a) Of these, how many convictions were a category 2 offence*
- (2,b) Of these, how many convictions were a category 3 offence*
- (2,c) Of these, how many convictions were a category 4 offence*

*Please provide this information broken down by race/ethnicity and gender.*

*Additionally, please provide the information broken down by offenders currently incarcerated for a non-strike offence, a first strike offence, second strike offence and third strike offence once the Sentencing and Parole Reform Act 2010 came into force. For all offenders previous to this date, please consider them to be non-strike offenders.*

You have requested a very complex breakdown of the prison population annually over a long period of time, and Corrections is not able to readily extract the figures you have requested. The information you have requested does not currently exist in a form that can be readily supplied to you, and would instead require Corrections to initiate a project to extract, analyse and present the data in the form requested.

We have considered asking you to refine or limit your request to one section or a shorter timeframe, or adjusting the parameters of your request, so that it can be answered within the available timeframe and resources. However, each section of your request in itself would be complex to answer, and would require the diversion of substantial staffing time and resources.

As such, your request is declined in full in accordance with section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

Please note that the Ombudsman has advised that information is not considered to be held by an agency in instances where a request necessitates research or analysis of source data in order to generate fresh information that is fundamentally different to the base data.

Corrections does however hold information relevant to your request, that may be of interest to you. In 2017 we undertook an analysis of the prison population as at 31 March 2017, that includes the minimum, average and maximum total convictions of sentenced and remand prisoners, broken down by lead offence.

Please find this data attached as Appendix One.

Please note this information was extracted for a specific project, and has not been replicated annually.

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.

Ngā mihi nui



PP

Rachel Leota  
National Commissioner