

17 December 2021

C140153

Moka Harris

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Tēnā koe Moka

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2021, requesting information about the number of breaches of parole and recalls over the last five years. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections manages people at the direction of the Courts and the New Zealand Parole Board (the Board). We do not determine who is in prison and who is in the community. People on community sentences/orders must comply with any conditions imposed on them by the Courts or the Board. Corrections actively manage the compliance of people with their conditions and hold them to account if they breach these conditions.

You requested:

- 1) *Please provide me with the total number of breaches of parole conditions per annum, as far back as 5 years. Please break this down by ethnicity and gender.*

Appendix One – Sheet One provides a table which contains the number of breaches of parole where the person was found guilty and convicted or convicted and discharged. The data is broken down by the financial year from 2016/17 to 2020/21, and by outcome, gender and ethnicity.

Note that Corrections' ethnicity records rely on self-reported information, and the people we manage are not required to report their ethnicity. Individuals may also declare more than one ethnicity. The data provided relates to the preferred recorded ethnicity.

- 2) *Please provide me with the total number of recalls to prison due to breach of parole conditions per annum, as far back as 5 years. Please break this down by ethnicity and gender.*
- 3) *Please provide me with the total number of recalls to prison in regards to 'life sentenced inmates' due to breach of parole conditions per annum, as far back as 5 years. Please break this down by ethnicity and gender.*

People on parole can be recalled for multiple reasons, which can be summarised as breaching conditions, re-offending or an increase in risk that the Board considers unacceptable for continued parole.

Your request for *the total number of recalls to prison due to breach of parole conditions* and *the total number of recalls to prison in regards to 'life sentenced inmates' due to breach of parole conditions* cannot be provided without substantial collation. The Board's recall decisions are recorded in free text, and to identify this type of information we would be required to manually review each decision. Additionally, it would not suffice to count recalls where a breach is present, as the breach may be minor in nature and inconsequential to the considerations of the Board when making the decision to recall. Therefore, this part of your request is declined under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

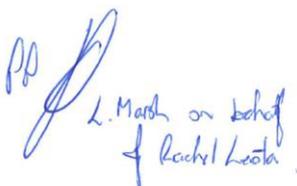
As per section 18B of the OIA, we have considered whether consulting you would assist to make the request in a form that would remove the reason for the refusal. However, we do not consider that the request could be refined in this instance.

Corrections can, however, provide the number of hearings where a recall was approved, broken down by gender, ethnicity and if the individual was on a life sentence or non-life sentence. An individual can be recalled multiple times within the same financial year and therefore can be represented more than once in this data. This information is attached as Appendix One – Sheet two.

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. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them 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



L. Marsh on behalf  
of Rachel Leota

Rachel Leota  
National Commissioner