



1 December 2014

c68547

Joshua Grainger
fyi-request-2059-095fa8ed@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Grainger

Thank you for your email dated 28 September 2014, requesting information about the Department's Child Protection Protocol. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The Department introduced the Child Protection Policy in 2013. This nationwide policy is to ensure the Department takes appropriate action to protect children who visit Corrections sites. The policy affects all prisoners and offenders who have a current or historical conviction for sexual or violent offences against children. We have a duty of care to ensure that the interests of children are protected. The policy is in line with the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989.

Visiting a prison can be an unsettling and difficult experience for a child. The Department has strict procedures in place to ensure that visits are managed safely. Please refer to our website via the link below for a copy of the Protocol document:

http://www.corrections.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/766410/Child_Protection_Protocol.pdf

You have requested the number of prisoners who would usually be prohibited from visits with a child under the Child Protection Protocol who have requested visits with a child. You have also requested the number of times permission has been granted, broken down by prison and prisoner offence type.

Please note that details about prisoner visit requests are not centrally collated and need to be manually sourced from each site. Therefore, as per your suggestion, we have restricted this request to Christchurch Men's Prison, Christchurch Women's Prison, and Rolleston Prison. Please refer to the table on the following page for the number of prisoners who submitted a request for a visit with a child, the number of prisoners who were granted a visit and details of the prisoner's offence type.

Prison	No. Prisoners affected by the Child Protection Protocol who requested visits with a child	No. of prisoners granted visits	Offence Type for those prisoners who were granted visits
Christchurch Men's Prison	13	6	4 x Sexual Offences and 2 x Violence Offences
Christchurch Women's Prison	2	2	2 x Violence Offences
Rolleston Prison	12	5	4 x Sexual Offences and 1 x Violence

Please note that if a prisoner wishes a child to visit they are required to complete an application form which is forwarded to the Prison Manager for their consideration. Applications are granted on a case by case basis taking into account each prisoner's individual circumstances. If granted, we take all possible steps to ensure that visits are conducted in a way that protects the interests of the child. This can include providing suitable amenities and child-appropriate resources to counteract any feelings of anxiety that the child may feel; imposing restrictions on the nature of the interaction and type of contact permitted; and providing full custodial supervision throughout the duration of the visit.

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