

15 June 2010

C50986

Debbie Porteous  
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Dear Debbie

I am writing in response to your email dated 12 May 2010, which has been referred to me as the General Manager of Community Probation & Psychological Services (CPPS) for a reply. In your letter you request information specifically about electronic monitoring and the equipment used to monitor offenders. Your request was made under the Official Information Act 1982.

CPPS manages a number of sentences and orders in the community including community work, supervision, intensive supervision, community detention, home detention, parole and extended supervision.

Some of these sentences have an electronic monitoring component whereby the offender is monitored using electronic equipment. Offenders subject to community detention may have an electronic monitored curfew for up to 84 hours a week. Offenders serving a home detention sentence are electronically monitored 24 hours a day 7 days a week during their sentence. In addition, parole and extended supervision orders can have special conditions imposed (referred to as residential restrictions) which allow for electronic monitoring of these offenders.

The following responses to your questions relate to all electronically monitored offenders (i.e. those on home detention, community detention, parole with residential restrictions, or extended supervision with residential restrictions) and the equipment used to monitor these offenders.

*How many people are on electronic monitoring at the moment?*

As at 16 May 2010, a total of 3215 offenders were subject to electronic monitoring. Of these, 1554 were serving a sentence of home detention, 1494 were serving a sentence of community detention, 150 were on parole with residential restrictions and 17 were serving an order of extended supervision with residential restrictions.

*How many were sentenced to electronic monitoring last year?*

During the 2009 calendar year a total of 7069 offenders were sentenced to home detention or community detention. In addition, 219 parole orders with residential restrictions were imposed and three extended supervision orders with residential restrictions were imposed.

The below table outlines the volumes of offenders managed on electronic monitoring for the 2009 calendar year.

<b>Number of offenders subject to a sentence or order with an electronic monitoring component</b>	<b>2009 Calendar Year 1 Jan 2009 to 31 Dec 2009</b>
Home Detention Sentence	3225
Community Detention Sentence	3844
Parole with full residential restrictions	219
Extended Supervision	3

*How many equipment faults have been recorded since electronic monitoring became an option?*

Electronic monitoring first became an option in 1999. Not all information relating to equipment faults since 1999 is readily available or held by the Department, therefore a full response to your question is refused in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Information of equipment faults for community detention is available from 1 April 2008. Information of equipment faults for home detention and parole and extended supervision (with residential restrictions) is available from November 2009. This information is provided below.

<b>Sentence or order</b>	<b>Number of equipment faults</b>
Community Detention*	389
Home Detention, and Parole and Extended Supervision (with residential restrictions)†	204

\* for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 April 2010

† for the period 1 November 2009 to 30 April 2010

*How many times have units in use had to be replaced as a result of faults?*

Between 1 April 2008 and 30 April 2010 a total of 88 monitoring units used for community detention sentences were replaced. During the period 1 November 2009 to 30 April 2010 a total of seven units used for home detention sentences, and orders of parole and extended supervision with residential restrictions were replaced. The replacement of units takes place

in a way to ensure there is no, or minimal interruption to the management of that offender.

*What sort of faults have been recorded?*

Like all electronic equipment there are a range of technical faults that can occur. Faults to electronic monitoring equipment include loss of communication or power, or malfunction after being damaged by offenders. The current electronic monitoring company's (G4S) central monitoring system is able to instantly identify such faults, including offender initiated faults. Adherence to strict policy and procedures ensures that all faults are identified and resolved quickly.

*How old are the units being used?*

Of those units used for offenders on a community detention sentence, 10% were manufactured in 2007 and 90% were manufactured after July 2008.

All units in use for offenders on home detention, parole with residential restrictions and extended supervision with residential restrictions were manufactured after August 2009.

*What is the lifespan of the unit?*

The lifespan of electronic equipment can vary significantly depending on how it is looked after and the type of environment it is exposed to. This information is not held by the Department and therefore your request has been refused in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982.

*How many are at the end of their lifespan?*

This information is not held by the Department and therefore your request has been refused in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982.

*Is electronic monitoring compromised by poor satellite signals in some areas?*

No. The majority of monitoring units use mobile telecommunication technology to communicate with the central monitoring system. In places where there is weak or poor coverage, standard landline telecommunication technology is used or there is the ability to use satellite monitoring units.

*Who is the company the monitoring has been contracted to?*

G4S New Zealand Ltd currently hold the contract for monitoring all offenders subject to electronic monitoring sentences and orders.

*How many bids were there for the contract?*

Information relating to the tender and contract is commercially sensitive information and is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982.

*How long is the contract for and how much is it worth?*

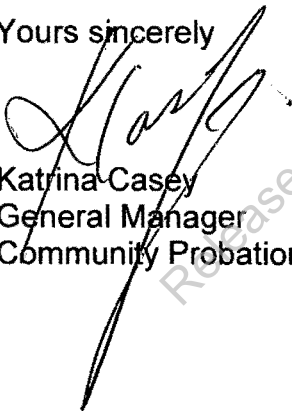
The contract commenced on 1 November 2009 and is due for review in April 2012. Information relating to the financial agreement between the Department of Corrections and G4S is commercially sensitive and is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982.

I trust this is the information you require. You may also like to visit our website [www.corrections.govt.nz](http://www.corrections.govt.nz) for further information relating to electronic monitoring.

If you are dissatisfied with the Department's response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate your concerns. The contact details are:

Office of the Ombudsmen,  
P O Box 10152,  
Wellington.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey  
General Manager  
Community Probation & Psychological Services