



25 March 2015

C70654

Seann Paurini  
[fyi-request-2542-c0eb79cf@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-2542-c0eb79cf@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Paurini

Thank you for your email dated 3 March 2015, requesting information about the number of requests to interview prisoners that have been received by the Department for the period 2011 to 2014. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As you may be aware, all interviews with prisoners must meet certain legislative requirements in order to be approved. Under the Corrections Regulations 2005, an interview with the purpose of obtaining information for publishing or broadcast requires the written approval of the Chief Executive and the prisoner. The Chief Executive makes the decision based on the need to maintain the security of the prison and the need to protect the interests of other people such as victims.

All media requests to interview prisoners were assessed under section 109 of the Corrections Regulations 2005, which provides that:

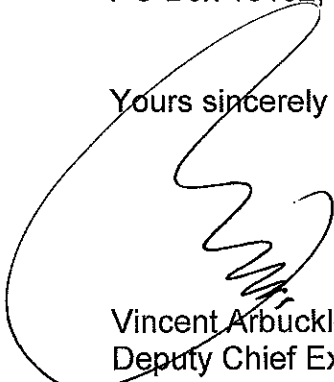
- (1) The chief executive must, in deciding whether to give approval under regulation 108, have regard to the need to— (a) protect the interests of people other than the prisoner concerned; and (b) maintain the security and order of the prison concerned.
- (2) The chief executive must not give that approval unless satisfied that the prisoner understands— (a) the nature and purpose of the filming, interviewing, photographing, recording, or videotaping concerned; and (b) the possible consequences to the prisoner and other people of the publication or broadcasting of the film, interview, photograph, recording, transcript, or videotape concerned.
- (3) The chief executive may give that approval subject to any conditions reasonably necessary to— (a) protect the interests of any person other than the prisoner; or (b) maintain the security and order of the prison.

You have requested the number of requests to interview prisoners that have been received by the Department for each calendar year for the period of 2011 to 2014. This information is provided in the table below. Please note this data includes applications to interview individual prisoners, interview groups of prisoners or to record a story on a prison-based initiative or programme.

Number of applications received by Corrections from the media to interview prisoners 2011 to 2014	
2011	23
2012	9
2013	32
2014	53

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



Vincent Arbuckle  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Corporate Services