

27 November 2024

C186823

K. Priestly

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Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 6 September 2024 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about Honeywell. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

1. Contracts and Agreements (2018 - Present): Copies of any contracts or agreements between the Department of Corrections and Honeywell Ltd. that specifically relate to the maintenance of electronic security systems in New Zealand prisons.

Corrections has one contract with Honeywell for the support of electronic security systems, which has been in place since 2003. Variations to this agreement were executed in subsequent years to reflect improvements in the delivery of these services. While the contract with Honeywell commenced prior to the timeframe noted in your request, it is still in place, and we have therefore considered it to be in scope of this part of your request.

In late 2023, Corrections released a tender to the open market via the Government Electronic Tendering System (GETS) for Electronic Security and Associated Services (ESAS) in New Zealand prisons. Responses have been recently evaluated which have resulted in Corrections developing three preferred providers for these services, where previously Honeywell was the sole provider:

- 1 – Projects: A panel has been created comprising of Beca and Honeywell.
- 2 – Service and Maintenance: The preferred supplier is Aotea Security New Zealand Limited.

Contract negotiations have commenced, and we expect new contracts to be in place in early 2025.

Releasing Corrections' contract with Honeywell could compromise our ability to further contract with and negotiate terms with Honeywell and other external providers who may provide similar services to develop and deliver electronic security services in New Zealand prisons.

We are therefore withholding this document in full under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA, as making the contract available would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
- 9(2)(i), as the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Corrections to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.
- 9(2)(j), to enable the agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

In accordance with section 9(1) of the OIA, we have considered countervailing public interest relating to the release of the information, including transparency, participation, and accountability. We are satisfied that in this case, public interest considerations do not outweigh the withholding reasons outlined above.

2. Communications Regarding AI (2022 - Present): Any communications (emails, meeting minutes, reports) between the Department of Corrections and Honeywell Ltd. from January 2022 onwards that specifically mention the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) or advanced surveillance technologies within the electronic security systems of New Zealand prisons.

Given the wide scope of your request and the time period covered, we have conducted a search of our email system to find emails which mention artificial intelligence (AI) between 1 January 2022 to 6 September 2024. Our initial search identified over 8,000 emails possibly in scope of your request. We ran further searches broken down by quarterly date ranges, with the keywords AI and/or Honeywell, however these searches still identified around 2,000 emails each.

While it is likely that much of this information will not actually be relevant to your request, the information would need to be manually reviewed to determine what is in scope of your request and any information we would need to withhold under the provisions of the OIA.

Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In accordance with sections 18A and 18B of the OIA, we have considered whether fixing a charge, extending the time limit or asking you to refine or amend your request would enable us to provide a response. However, given the scale of the request, we do not consider this would be an appropriate use of our publicly funded resources.

Should you wish to resubmit an OIA with different parameters, such as limiting your request to a condensed time period, we will be willing to assist you to the best of our ability.

As mentioned in a response to you dated 4 September 2024 (reference C185717), Corrections is continuously looking at new technologies and how they could help us to keep

prisons safe and secure. AI is not currently being used in any way across our electronic security systems, including services provided by Honeywell.

3. Risk Assessments for Waikeria Prison (2021 - Present): Copies of any risk assessments or evaluations conducted by or for the Department of Corrections that mention or analyse Honeywell's involvement in the implementation of security systems at Waikeria Prison since 2021.

Honeywell provides building management systems to Waikeria Prison as a subcontractor to the Waikeria Public Private Partnership (PPP) consortium Cornerstone Infrastructure Partners. The Waikeria PPP was executed in September 2018 and the design was substantially completed by 2020.


Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

In accordance with section 18B of the OIA we have considered and do not believe that consulting with you would enable the request to be granted, as the request is specific, but the information does not exist.

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 hope this information is helpful. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Alastair Turrell
Deputy Chief Executive
Infrastructure and Digital Assets