

10 April 2026

C211833

C Lane

fyi-request-33617-27673904@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request of 16 March 2026 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting further information about visiting an individual at Rimutaka Prison, following our previous response to you dated 12 March 2026 (our reference C209600). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

Please clarify your answer to;

- I would like to request all support visitation options for life sentenced inmates with a minimum security classification, (and other classification, stated for each) attending such program/s above (STURP) at Rimutaka Prison, e.g long distance family members have available options (on application) of 2.5hr inmate standard and special visits (with children), one per week, two per one week and so on. Please also include adult only options, per week and so on etc

To clarify, what visit options are there for long distance family members re above, and also how many visitors per visit, including children etc, are there options for larger group visits, eg 3 adults 3 children etc.

Are there extended visit options?

Are there special visit options? And so on, to clarify.

If so referring to the above, please state the criteria and application process for those options, (if any).

I understand prisoners entitlements, I am only wanting to know Rimutaka's available options etc re the above please.

Outside of limited circumstances, all people in prison, including Rimutaka Prison, are entitled to at least one private visitor each week for at least 30 minutes. Each prison

determines how many visits a prisoner can have and how many visitors are permitted at each visit.

Extended and special visit options can be applied for by the person being visited. Such visits can be up to two and a half hours. Approval of the visit is dependent on the prisoner's behaviour and the criteria being met. Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The criteria and application process for Rimutaka Prison is as follows:

- A prisoner can have a maximum of one special/extended visit per month.
- The Principal Corrections Officer is required to complete the application form.
- There are no special/extended visits for identified drug users.
- Visitors travelling by plane or boat are required to provide a copy of their ticket as evidence.
- Proof the visitor is located three or more hours of more travel time away from the prison.
- The application must be submitted with at least seven days' notice.
- The number of visitors allowed remains the same as a normal visit, two adults and two children or one adult and three children.
- Part of the special/extended visit may take place in a non-contact booth.

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



Sean Mason
Commissioner Custodial Services