



14 July 2017

C86733

Mark Hanna  
No Pride In Prisons  
[Fyi-request-6032-2df5585a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:Fyi-request-6032-2df5585a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Hanna

Thank you for your email of 21 June 2017, requesting information about the Department's decision to release nine Crimes of Torture Act (COTA) reports. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You have requested:

1. All communications regarding the decision to release these reports. I intend this to include discussions of which reports should be released, which should not, and (where possible) what information should be withheld from the reports.

The Department made the decision to release these nine COTA reports following two separate requests for four and five COTA reports respectively. As the individual requests were for a limited number of reports the Department was able to respond to the requests without substantial research or collation. In light of the number of requests the Department has received for various COTA reports, it was determined it would be appropriate to release these reports publicly, rather than a release to the individual requesters only.

There is no written documentation concerning this decision and your request is therefore declined under section 18(e), of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

The Department completed an assessment of the reports in preparation for release. This is standard practice to ensure that no information is released which could compromise the security of the prison or the privacy of any individual. The Department holds one document in relation to the information withheld from these reports. This document contains free and frank advice around the release of the reports. In addition, it contains some personal

information of other individuals. This document is withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty and under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

2. The names of all people and organisations who were sent a copy of the media release, or any other notification of these reports having been published.
  - a. If other notifications of these reports having been published were sent, please provide copies of these communications.

The Department published the COTA reports on its website at which time the two original requesters were notified of the publication. The Department also notified the Office of the Ombudsman that the reports were being published. Copies of the email communications are enclosed with this response. The names and organisations of these individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

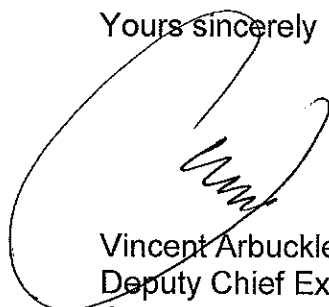
The Department did not notify any other parties of the release. It is noted that the publication of these reports was accompanied by a statement attributable to Chief Custodial Officer Neil Beales which provided an update on the work completed by the Department in response to the recommendations of the COTA reports. While the statement is listed under the 'press release' section of our website, it is in fact a Department statement. It was published on our website to provide Corrections' views and context on the COTA reports. It is not unusual for Corrections to put statements on our website which are not sent to the media.

3. Any communications regarding who should or should not receive a copy of the media release or a notification of the reports having been published.

No information relevant to this part of your request has been identified. Accordingly, this part of your request is declined under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts, cannot be found.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Arbuckle', is written over a large, loopy circular scribble.

Vincent Arbuckle  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Corporate Services

§ 9(2)(a)

**From:** Info@Corrections  
**Sent:** 01 June 2017 12:54 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** C84427

Dear § 9(2)(a)

Further to our letter dated 18 April 2017, we confirm that the reports you requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), are now available on the Corrections website via the following links:

[http://www.corrections.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2017\\_media\\_releases/release\\_of\\_ombudsmans\\_inspection\\_reports.html](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2017_media_releases/release_of_ombudsmans_inspection_reports.html)

[http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic\\_reports/ombudsmans\\_inspection\\_reports.html](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic_reports/ombudsmans_inspection_reports.html)

We hope this information is useful.

Kind regards,  
Ministerial Services  
Department of Corrections *Ara Poutama Aotearoa*  
Mayfair House | 44-52 The Terrace | Private Box 1206 | Wellington



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s 9(2)(a)

**From:** Info@Corrections  
**Sent:** 01 June 2017 12:53 p.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** C84481

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Further to our letter dated 18 April 2017, we confirm that the reports you requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), are now available on the Corrections website via the following links:

[http://www.corrections.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2017\\_media\\_releases/release\\_of\\_ombudsmans\\_inspection\\_reports.html](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2017_media_releases/release_of_ombudsmans_inspection_reports.html)

[http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic\\_reports/ombudsmans\\_inspection\\_reports.html](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic_reports/ombudsmans_inspection_reports.html)

We hope this information is useful.

Kind regards,  
Ministerial Services  
Department of Corrections *Ara Poutama Aotearoa*  
Mayfair House | 44-52 The Terrace | Private Box 1206 | Wellington



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

§ 9(2)(a)

**From:** § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 01 June 2017 11:20 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a) @ombudsman.parliament.nz'  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a); ARBUCKLE, Vincent (WELLHO) § 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** (WELLHO)  
Release of COTA reports

Good morning § 9(2)(a)

The Department is preparing to release nine COTA reports onto our public website this afternoon. The reports to be released are:

- i. Report on an unannounced inspection of Department of Corrections' Rolleston Prison's Totara Unit and Rata Unit dated 28 February 2012
- ii. Report on an unannounced follow-up visit to Department of Corrections' Auckland Prison Directed Segregation Facilities, dated 17 April 2012
- iii. Report on unannounced inspection of the Department of Corrections' Rimutaka Prison: Upper Prison – Units Three and Four, dated September 2012
- iv. Report on an unannounced inspection of the Department of Corrections' Tongariro Working Prison; Cedar Units One and Two, dated 21 to 23 November 2012
- v. Report on an unannounced follow up visit to the Department of Corrections' Auckland Men's Prison, dated 10 August 2011
- vi. Report on an unannounced follow up inspection of the Department of Corrections' Waikeria Prison, dated 22 September 2011
- vii. Report on an unannounced follow up visit to the Department of Corrections' Arohata Prison, dated 12 January 2012
- viii. Report on an unannounced follow up visit to the Department of Corrections' Hawke's Bay Regional Prison's High Medium H Unit, the Receiving Office and the Separates, dated 17 January 2012.
- ix. Report on an unannounced inspection of Corrections Service Rolleston Prison, dated 4 April 2016.

The Department is publicly releasing these reports following a request from members of the § 9(2)(a) for copies of these. As the reports are of public interest, the Department determined that it was appropriate to release these to the wider public rather than providing copies to the individual requesters.

The link to this information is: [http://corrections.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2017\\_media\\_releases/release\\_of\\_ombudsmans\\_inspection\\_reports.html](http://corrections.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2017_media_releases/release_of_ombudsmans_inspection_reports.html). This webpage will be live from approximately 12 noon today.

If you wish to discuss this release please contact § 9(2)(a) or via email on § 9(2)(a)

Kind regards,

§ 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)



Released under the Official Information Act 1982