

26 January 2018

C91966

Ti Lamusse  
[fyi-request-6291-8d6c60af@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-6291-8d6c60af@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ti Lamusse

I refer to your original request dated 28 July 2017, requesting information about prisoners in at-risk units (ARUs) or subjected to directed segregation. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections' initial response of 15 September 2017 contained data by calendar year, not financial year as you had requested. Please see the enclosed appendices with the requested data broken down by financial year.

The safety of prisoners in our custody is paramount. In accordance with sections 58 to 60 of the Corrections Act 2004, prisoners can be lawfully denied association with other prisoners if their behaviour presents a risk to the security of the prison, the safety of others, the prison's Health Centre Manager considers that it is necessary to assess or ensure their mental or physical health, or if the Prison Director feels it is the only reasonable way to keep the prisoner safe from themselves.

At all times segregated prisoners continue to be provided opportunities for exercise, access to visitors, mail, telephone calls and other entitlements set out in the Corrections Act. They also have regular and ongoing contact with Corrections staff, including our health services staff and mental health professionals as required.

While subject to segregation, their progress is reviewed daily by a senior staff member and they are removed from segregation at the earliest opportunity. All prisoners newly received into a prison (including from bail or recalled from parole) are assessed for risk of self-harm. Their At Risk status is also reviewed frequently in response to events including new charges being laid against them, following transfer between prisons, when parole is deferred for more than two years, or following a change in family circumstances. Information regarding the reception risk assessment is outlined in the Prison Operations Manual and is available on our website at [http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy\\_and\\_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Movement/M.05-Prisoners-at-risk-of-self-harm/M.05.html](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Movement/M.05-Prisoners-at-risk-of-self-harm/M.05.html).

With regard to directed segregation, Corrections operates prisons that are safe for prisoners, staff, visitors and the general public. Corrections has policies and operational procedures in place to support all prisoners and segregation is one of many mechanisms available to manage safety for all.

When prisoners are segregated, a segregation management plan will be developed to reflect and to identify any special needs that may be relevant due to the segregation. This ensures that prisoners are not impeded in any way by their segregation. A plan may include ways in which the prisoner can address their behaviour or concerns that have led to the segregation, and the measures that will be undertaken by the prison to assist with their return to the general prison population. A copy of the segregation management plan is provided to the prisoner.

Further information regarding the segregation of prisoners as contained within the Prison Operations Manual, and can be found on our website at <http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/Prison-Operations-Manual/Movement/M.01-Movements-internal,-directed-and-specified/M.01-3.html>.

In response to your request, I have addressed each of your specific queries below. For the purpose of context, when reviewing the information provided, it is important to note that between 31 December 2009 and 29 August 2017, the prisoner population increased from 8,244 to 10,478. This represents an increase of approximately 2,200 people, and is reflected in an increased number of prisoners in ARUs and on directed segregation. While on any given day the prison population is approximately 10,000, the number of persons who enter and leave prison annually is approximately 20,000.

*The total number of directed segregation starts broken down by year since 2009.*

*The total number of individuals starting directed segregation broken down by year since 2009.*

Please find the requested information attached as Appendix One and Appendix Two.

As advised above, the increasing general prison population has affected the number of prisoners that have been on directed segregation.

*The total number of ARU starts, broken down by year since 2009.*

*The total number of people who spent time in ARU's broken down by year since 2009.*

Please find the requested information attached as Appendix Three and Appendix Four.

As with the number of prisoners on directed segregation, the number of prisoners accommodated in ARUs has increased with the general prison population. Additionally, the increase may be attributed to strengthened mental

health screening processes upon prisoners' reception into prisons (and transfer between prisons).

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with Corrections. 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 be 'JB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeanette Burns  
Acting National Commissioner

## Appendix One – Directed segregation starts, since 2009

Year	Number of starts
2010/11	936
2011/12	1,240
2012/13	1,504
2013/14	1,547
2014/15	1,608
2015/16	2,364
2016/17	3,131

Note: An individual may commence multiple periods of directed segregation in a single year. Each instance is counted individually.

**Appendix Two – Individuals that commenced a period of directed segregation, since 2009**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of individuals</b>
2010/11	587
2011/12	714
2012/13	842
2013/14	899
2014/15	885
2015/16	1,264
2016/17	1,617

### Appendix Three – At-Risk Unit starts, since 2009

Year	Number of starts
2010/11	5,160
2011/12	4,502
2012/13	4,600
2013/14	4,248
2014/15	4,271
2015/16	5,067
2016/17	3,814

Note: An individual may commence multiple periods in At-Risk Units (based on the differing levels of risk the individual is presenting with) in a single year. Each instance is counted individually.

**Appendix Four – Individuals that commenced a period in an At-Risk Unit, since 2009**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of individuals</b>
2010/11	2,749
2011/12	2,515
2012/13	2,502
2013/14	2,278
2014/15	2,444
2015/16	2,738
2016/17	2,312