

9 July 2018

C97382

Ti Lamusse
fyi-request-8080-4102bffe@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ti Lamusse

Thank you for your emails of 21 June 2018, requesting information about prisoners' sexual orientation. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

With reference to information included in Anna Leask's book, claiming that prisoners are asked their sexual orientation on their reception into prison, you have asked:

- 1. Is this claim correct? Is there a national policy to ask the sexual orientation of all prisoners on reception to prison? If yes, does this happen each time they are transferred between the prison estate, or just when they enter prison for the first time?*
- 2. I understand that this question may differ from prison to prison. Please let me know what the policy is on asking sexual orientation, broken down by each prison.*
- 3. If this data is collected, please provide me with the throughput number of people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, or otherwise non-heterosexual. Please break this down by year. Please provide me with the throughput total number of prisoners for the corresponding years.*
- 4. If this data is collected at a prison-by-prison basis, please provide the throughput for non-heterosexual prisoners, as well as, the throughput of all prisoners, broken down by each prison.*
- 5. Please also provide me, if the data exists, the number of people who refused to answer the question — broken down as requested initially.*

Corrections does not hold statistics on the sexual orientation of prisoners. There is no policy to request this information from prisoners at the receiving office, and we do not operate any database or electronic system to record or store these details. Therefore, your request is declined in full under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

When any prisoner is received into prison, we conduct general health screenings where we assess and arrange on-going care and treatment for any health needs, physical or mental. An At-Risk assessment is also completed at this stage to assess whether a prisoner is at risk to themselves or others. Prisoners are assigned a case manager who completes an offender plan, which includes any appropriate rehabilitative and reintegrative interventions.

Under Prison Operations Manual *M.01.05 Voluntary protective custody (Voluntary segregation)* policy, any prisoner who has concerns about their safety in prison can request voluntary segregation. The purpose of these procedures is to keep vulnerable prisoners separated from the wider prison population if they cannot be managed in a safe manner with mainstream prisoners.

I hope the information provided is helpful. If 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 'Gillon Carruthers', written in a cursive style.

Gillon Carruthers
General Manager Public Affairs
Corporate Services