



25 March 2019

C104093

Kate McIntyre
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Tēnā koe Ms McIntyre

Thank you for your email of 21 January 2019, requesting information about Auckland Prison. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections is committed to ensuring our custodial facilities are safe, secure and fit for purpose. We are statutorily obliged to maintain our facilities in such a way, and we take this responsibility seriously.

You have requested:

How many prisoners are currently being housed at Auckland Prison's new wing that contains the health wing and sensory garden?

What is the criteria for deciding who is housed at Auckland Prison's new wing?

How much capacity for housing prisoners does Auckland Prison's new wing have?

Four new accommodation units have been opened at Auckland Prison within a new maximum security facility, with a total capacity of 260 prisoners. Capacity for the prison as a whole remains at 680.

The new facility was designed to enable the delivery of a safer, more secure approach towards reducing reoffending and supporting prisoner wellbeing. The facility provides multi-disciplinary team areas for a range of staff to be located in the unit together in order to better support prisoner rehabilitation.

Unit 11, Kia Mau Kia Matara, is one of the four new units within the new facility. It has a sensory garden and sensory room, a range of small and large programme rooms, dayrooms, exercise yards, interview rooms, and a health station.

I can advise that, as at 4 February 2019, 236 prisoners were housed across the four accommodation units in this new facility.

Kia Mau Kia Matara is an Intervention Support Unit (ISU), however only 18 dedicated beds are currently being managed in this way. ISUs have entry criteria in terms of prisoners' risk of self harm. Risk assessments are one of the mechanisms used to determine if placement in an ISU is appropriate.

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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Leota', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Leota
National Commissioner