



1 May 2019

C106653

Danny Pickering  
[fyi-request-9974-5dfbcb53@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-9974-5dfbcb53@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Pickering

Thank you for your email of 1 April 2018, requesting reports commissioned by Corrections that investigate homelessness by released prisoners. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections funds a number of reintegration programmes that provide emergency transitional accommodation support to people leaving prison and help them towards independence in the community. Reintegration programmes encompass a range of different supports and include the development of a reintegration plan, support to access community services, or direct provision of services such as accommodation and employment.

A range of service providers provide emergency and transitional accommodation and basic case management support for community-based offenders while they are transitioning into suitable accommodation. The intensity and nature of the support will vary depending on the needs of each offender. Only a limited number of Emergency Accommodation beds are contracted for each region.

While the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has ultimate responsibility for providing housing for people in need, in recent years Corrections has:

- Increased our investment in accommodation and support services from \$3.8 million in 2016 to over \$7 million per annum in 2019.
- Signed a memorandum of understanding with Housing New Zealand (HNZ), promoting our joint initiatives.
- the Creating Positive Pathways programme in partnership with MSD, is being rolled out in the North Island and will provide 250 (125 in Auckland) additional public housing places over four years for prisoners with unmet housing needs.

Further information on the Creating Positive Pathways programme is available at:

[https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/newsletters\\_and\\_brochures/journal/volume\\_6\\_issue\\_2\\_november\\_2018/creating\\_positive\\_pathways\\_a\\_long-term\\_housing\\_initiative\\_for\\_people\\_released\\_from\\_prison.html](https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/newsletters_and_brochures/journal/volume_6_issue_2_november_2018/creating_positive_pathways_a_long-term_housing_initiative_for_people_released_from_prison.html)

We are continuing to work collaboratively with MSD to advance the needs of those who qualify on the social housing list, and with the Ministry of Health and district health boards to advance the needs of offenders with intellectual disabilities.

In addition, the Government approved an additional \$57 million for housing options to be determined by HNZ and Corrections to support the release of prisoners who otherwise struggle to achieve appropriate accommodation. In 2017/18, Corrections referred 7,439 offenders to reintegration service providers. These providers help offenders to obtain long term sustainable accommodation, and also to find employment, enrol in training courses, maintain their spiritual and personal wellbeing, open a bank account, budget, and connect with whanau and community support.

You have requested the following information:

*"Please provide me with all reports commissioned or produced by the Department of Corrections which investigate the topics of: homelessness; homelessness & formerly incarcerated people; the number of formerly incarcerated people who are homeless; the effects of housing on imprisonment, reimprisonment, and reoffending."*

A search of our records for the past five years did not result in any Corrections reports that investigate homelessness amongst former prisoners. Your request is declined under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

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



Jo Field  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Service Development