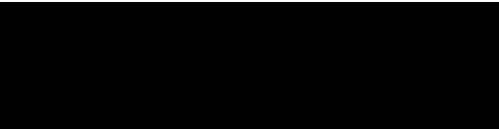



5 July 2023

C167010



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 28 April 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about young people who are electronically monitored.

Public safety is our top priority. Corrections manages people at the direction of the Courts and the New Zealand Parole Board. We do not determine who is in prison and who is in the community. Where a person is sentenced by the Courts, including to home detention, Corrections is responsible for managing their compliance with any conditions imposed.

Electronically Monitored (EM) Bail is jointly managed under a shared service model between Corrections and the Police and requires a person to remain at an approved address at all times and be subject to GPS monitoring 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Court may impose other bail conditions allowing a defendant to leave for approved reasons, such as to attend government agency appointments, medical appointments and in some cases, employment or education opportunities. Corrections carries out the monitoring of defendants on EM Bail, while the Police are responsible for taking action regarding any instances of non-compliance with EM conditions.

The number of youths that are electronically monitored.

Could I please get the number of youths for the past three years for all of New Zealand?

Could that please be broken down into years?

Could it also be broken down into regions?

Could I please get the ages of those being monitored?

We have interpreted your request as referring to people under the age of 20 who were electronically monitored at any point each year. This includes people managed by Corrections in the community who have an electronic monitoring condition, and people who are jointly managed by Police and Corrections on EM Bail.

The table below shows these people broken down by year, Corrections region, and age:

Age of young person	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Total
Central Region	7	37	44	41	78	101	122	430
2019/2020	-	8	11	8	22	24	40	113
2020/2021	1	-	4	13	11	20	40	89
2021/2022	2	12	7	10	28	31	28	118
2022/2023*	4	17	22	10	17	26	14	110
Lower North Region	3	38	59	77	63	116	191	547
2019/2020	1	13	14	21	21	35	47	152
2020/2021	-	6	16	28	14	21	67	152
2021/2022	1	14	20	13	20	38	45	151
2022/2023*	1	5	9	15	8	22	32	92
Northern Region	8	70	122	87	113	202	279	881
2019/2020	-	4	29	27	38	63	87	248
2020/2021	4	4	10	18	19	46	73	174
2021/2022	2	34	38	12	33	44	66	229
2022/2023*	2	28	45	30	23	49	53	230
Southern Region	2	38	47	31	34	89	131	372
2019/2020	-	6	8	9	17	33	39	112
2020/2021	-	4	14	9	4	21	41	93
2021/2022	-	6	10	4	4	21	28	73
2022/2023*	2	22	15	9	9	14	23	94

* 2022/23 figures are provided up to 30 April 2023

And also broken into genders?

The table below shows the same people as the previous table but broken down by gender.

Financial year	Male	Female	Indeterminate	Total
2019/2020	553	72	-	625
2020/2021	448	59	1	508
2021/2022	534	37	-	571
2022/2023*	476	48	2	526
Total	2,011	216	3	2,230

How long are youths generally monitored for? What is the longest electronic monitoring of a youth? And which region?

Between 1 July 2019 and 30 April 2023, the length of electronic monitoring for people under 20 years old ranged from one day to 1,121 days. Corrections manages people at the direction of the Courts and the New Zealand Parole Board. We do not determine who is in prison and who is in the community. Where a person is sentenced by the Courts, including to home detention, Corrections is responsible for managing their compliance with any conditions imposed. The average and maximum for each region are shown in the table below.

Region	Average duration	Maximum duration
Central Region	140.6	771
Lower North Region	147.4	1,002
Northern Region	132.6	1,121
Southern Region	142.4	1,032

Do they work the same as adult monitoring?

Electronic monitoring equipment and procedures are the same for people under 20 as they are for people 20 years and older.

How many have escaped electronic monitoring in the past year?

When an EM anklet is damaged, tampered with, or the person leaves their approved address (with anklet still working) at a time they did not have approved, an alert is generated.

Corrections has a team available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to respond to potential non-compliance with electronic monitoring. How Corrections responds differs depending on the seriousness of the case and can include contacting the individual or their whānau by phone, sending a field officer to check in with the individual or contacting Police. Corrections works closely with Police to respond to incidents of non-compliance.

Providing accurate information on alerts that pertain to people on community-based sentences such as home detention leaving their address without approval would require manually verifying each alert to ensure it resulted from an actual incident of non-compliance. Therefore, this part of your request is declined under 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

As per section 18B of the OIA, we have considered whether consulting with you would assist to make the request in a form that would remove the reason for the refusal. However, we do not consider that the request could be refined in this instance. We have also considered whether to affix a charge or extend the time limit for responding. However, given the scale of the request we do not consider that this would be an appropriate use of our limited publicly funded resources.

Please be advised that should you have any concerns regarding this response you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate our decision to extend the timeframe. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Leigh Marsh
National Commissioner