

03 March 2023

C164686

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 2 February 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about Corrections’ independent review of our notification policy and accommodation for released prisoners. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections would like to acknowledge the impact of this devastating crime on Juliana Herrera’s family and friends, and the Christchurch community.

We understand that the location of offenders can be a concern for communities, and we work hard to balance this concern with our obligation to safely manage people in the community when they can no longer lawfully be detained in prison. We have taken on board recent public concerns about how Corrections notifies local communities when people are released from prison, and have commissioned an independent review into our notification policy to ensure it is clear, transparent, fit for purpose and contributes to public safety.

You requested:

*I'd like to seek comment from Corrections regarding Corrections review of its notifications policy in the wake of Juliana Herrera's murder in Addington Christchurch. Where is that review at?*

As mentioned in our media statement to you, Corrections has engaged Dr Gwenda Willis, an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Auckland, as the independent lead for the review into our existing notification policy on offenders being placed in the community. Dr Willis is a well-respected clinical psychologist who has extensive knowledge in forensic and correctional psychology, including research and practice.

The review is looking at:

- The current community notification and engagement process to ensure it is clear, transparent, fit for purpose and contributes to enhancing the safety of communities.
- Recent changes in legislation, policy and practice relating to the assessment and management of accommodation in the community as far back as the previous review undertaken in 2018.
- Relevant supported accommodation services provided or accessed to prevent the risk of further harm to the community.

The review is expected to be completed by 31 March 2023. Once the review is completed, we will be considering the release of the report.

*Is the house where Joseph James Brader lived still being used to house as a corrections residential facility and for what purpose?*

The house is not currently being used by a person on sentence with Corrections. This is a private property that is used by a non-contracted provider and is not owned or operated by Corrections, however, Corrections work together with the provider to assess the suitability of anyone under Corrections' oversight who may be considered for placement at this address. As it currently stands, the provider's policy is now to only accommodate women at the address.

*How many of these kinds of Corrections residential facilities are there?*

The residence in question is not a contracted Corrections residential facility. There are three contracted providers with properties across the Christchurch metropolitan area that support people on community-based sentences or orders with accommodation and other wrap around reintegrative support services. There is also a Corrections service on prison land at Christchurch Men's Prison. Corrections also works alongside a range of non-contracted residential providers to source transitional and long-term accommodation for people leaving prison or who are subject to community-based sentences. Having stable accommodation is a critical factor in reducing reoffending.

*How many are flats that form part of the same building?*

*How many are situated in housing complexes?*

Corrections makes assessments based on available information as to the suitability of a person residing in high density or adjoining properties. There are 30 properties across the three contracted providers. Of these 30 properties, there are 23 properties which are situated in a housing complex setting.

*How many of those housing complexes are Kainga Ora owned?*

*How many of those are Otautahi Community Housing Trust complexes?*

None of these housing complexes mentioned above are owned by Kainga Ora or the Otautahi Community Housing Trust.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response 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



Leigh Marsh  
National Commissioner