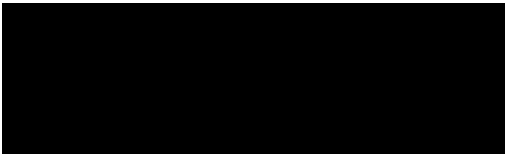
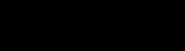


19 July 2023

C170162



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 30 June 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about media requests received by Corrections’ Chief Executive and Executive Leadership team. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

- *The number of media requests that the Chief Executive (or equivalent position) of your organisation has received, each year for the past six years, and the number of media request accepted, each year for the past six years.*
- *The number of media requests that members of the Executive team (or Board, only in instances where an Executive team does not exist) of your organisation have received, each year for the past six years, and the number of media request accepted, each year for the past six years.*

On 4 July 2023, we sought clarification about the term ‘media request’. On 11 July 2023, you clarified with the following:

I am enquiring about the number of times Corrections receives an request to interview our Chief Executive or Executive team – and the number of times these requests have been accepted for both.

All requests for information, including interview requests from media organisations and journalists are considered in accordance with the OIA. Corrections attempts to facilitate interviews when requested, but it there are occasions where it may not be possible or appropriate. For example, if the subject matter relates to an ongoing Police or Coroner’s investigation.

All media queries are logged and included in Corrections OIA statistics that are published on the Public Services Commission website [here](#). In the past six financial years, since 2017/18, Corrections have completed over 40,000 OIA requests. Of these, approximately 3,983 OIA

requests are recorded to have been from a media organisation or journalist. To identify whether the request was for an interview from Corrections' Chief Executive or a member of Corrections' Executive Leadership Team, we would need to manually review each of the 3,983 requests and responses. Therefore, your request is refused in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as the information cannot be provided without substantial collation or research.

As per Section 18(b) we have considered whether consulting with you would enable the request to be made in a form that would remove the reason for the refusal. However, we do not consider that the request can be refined in this instance.

However, we have been able to review requests and responses for the first six months of this year from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023. During this six-month period, we received five requests to interview Corrections' Chief Executive. Four requests were facilitated, with three interviews taking place – one journalist withdrew their request. We advised the fifth requestor, an international business magazine, that we were not currently able to fit their requirements into the Chief Executive's schedule but could look to facilitate an interview later in the year. The Chief Executive also gave four interviews to journalists who did not specifically request to interview him.

During the same period, we received two requests to interview Corrections' National Commissioner. Both requests were accepted – the National Commissioner gave one interview, while an alternative spokesperson who had been more closely involved with the subject matter gave the other. The National Commissioner also gave five interviews to journalists who did not specifically request to interview him.

We did not receive any requests to interview other members of Corrections' Executive Leadership Team in the time period.

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



Nic Barkley
Manager Ministerial Services
People and Capability