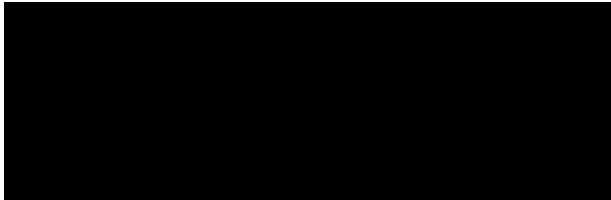
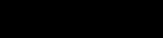




13 June 2023

C168582



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 15 May 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about assaults on staff. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Please note that figures are accurate as at 23 May 2023. Numbers and categorisations may be subject to change as investigations are completed.

Definition of assault categories are:

- No injury – victim subjected to physical violence that did not result in physical injuries or require any form of medical treatment (e.g. kicking, shoving, jostling, striking or punching that did not result in injury).
- Non-serious – victim subjected to physical violence that resulted in physical injuries that may have required medical treatment, and/or overnight hospitalisation as part of initial assessment or medical observation but not ongoing medical treatment (e.g. blood nose, xray required, cuts requiring minimal stitches, gouging, or bites).
- Serious – an act of physical violence that involves one or more of the following; bodily harm requiring medical intervention by medical staff followed by overnight hospitalisation (beyond initial assessment or medical observation) in a medical facility; bodily harm requiring extended periods of ongoing medical intervention: or sexual assault of any form where Police charges have been laid.

Your requests have been answered in turn. You requested:

1. *I am requesting the number of staff assaulted from the 4th May 2022 to the 3rd May 2023 in all prisons including privately operated prisons.*

The total number of staff assaulted during the period was 1,000. This is a count of staff members assaulted at each incident. This is not the same as the number of assaults (which is usually reported), as more than one staff member can be assaulted during a single incident.

| Assault category | Number of staff |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Serious | 37 |
| Non-Serious | 394 |
| No-Injury | 569 |
| Total | 1,000 |

2. For the same period of time we also request the information below, we are happy that this further information is provided separately to the first request.
- a. The number of days in total of lost time injuries from assaults.

Please find enclosed Appendix One which provides the number of days lost due to injury sustained from being assaulted.

- b. The number of prisoners charged by the police for assaulting staff.

As you will be aware, Initiative One of our revised Violence and Aggression plan continued to focus on holding people in prison to account. The purpose of this initiative is still to enhance Corrections prosecutions capability by continuing to improve oversight and support, development of training material and delivery to improve site-based capability and to provide ongoing assurance that improvement in this area measured.

In 2022, Corrections and Police agreed a pilot process for reporting assaults and other non-urgent violent offences against Corrections employees via the 105 Online reporting channel. The pilot process included all five prison sites in the Southern Region. At the conclusion of the pilot, the parties analysed the data and agreed the process should be rolled out nationally from April 2023.

The New Zealand Police are responsible to laying charges against people who have committed assault, in prison and in the community. We have consulted with the New Zealand Police on this request and they have advised that their reporting does not enable for this information to be provided. Therefore, this request is refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the OIA as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

- c. The number of prisoners charged internally for assaulting staff.

The below table provides the number of people in prison who were charged with an internal misconduct for assaulting a member of staff. Please note Corrections have improved the way we answer this question. Previously we have counted the number of unique people

who have been charged with any misconduct attached to the assault of staff incident. Now we are counting the number of unique people who have been charged with 'Assaults, or fights with, any other person' which is attached to an assault on staff incident.

| Prison | Assault-Serious | Assault-Non-Serious | Assault-No Injury | Grand Total |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Northland Region Corrections Facility | 5 | 12 | 12 | 29 |
| Auckland Prison | 4 | 34 | 43 | 81 |
| Mt Eden Corrections Facility | 6 | 65 | 56 | 127 |
| Auckland Region Womens Corrections Facility | - | 31 | 29 | 60 |
| Auckland South Corrections Facility | 5 | 40 | 29 | 74 |
| Spring Hill Corrections Facility | 19 | 30 | 51 | 100 |
| Waikeria Prison | 1 | 8 | - | 9 |
| Tongariro Prison | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Hawkes Bay Regional Prison | 5 | 13 | 16 | 34 |
| Whanganui Prison | 1 | 18 | 27 | 46 |
| Manawatu Prison | 1 | 9 | 11 | 21 |
| Arohata Prison | - | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| Rimutaka Prison | - | 15 | 28 | 43 |
| Christchurch Mens Prison | 1 | 16 | 48 | 65 |
| Christchurch Womens Prison | - | 6 | 15 | 21 |
| Rolleston Prison | - | | 1 | 1 |
| National Total | 48 | 309 | 372 | 729 |

d. The number of prisoners charged internally and externally for sexual assaults on staff.

Corrections has laid internal charges for a sexual assault against a member of staff against 18 people in prison. We have consulted with the New Zealand Police on this request and they have advised that their reporting does not enable for information to be provided in relation to external (criminal) charges being laid. Therefore, this request is refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the OIA as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

e. The average national prisoner muster for the period 4th May 2022 to 3rd May 2023.

Between 04/05/2022 and 03/05/2023 the total population (including prisoners accommodated in police cells and long-term residential hospitals) averaged 8,082.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leigh Marsh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Leigh Marsh
National Commissioner