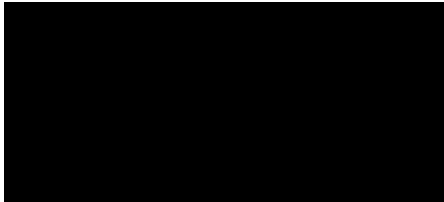



15 May 2023

C166673



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 22 March 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about Electronically Monitored (EM) Bail.

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, otherwise known as a breach of bail.

EM devices have the following features to help prevent and discourage people from absconding:

- The strap has a high yield stainless steel internal band which prevents stretching.
- The strap and tag are designed so weight is evenly distributed, this provides security as a correctly sized and fitted strap reduces the ability for it to be slipped over the ankle and removed.
- The strap is fitted with a single strand fibre optic mechanism for high-quality tamper alerts.
- The strap integral robust locking mechanism has a tight fit to the tag and few moving parts to minimise debris such as grit and sand entering the locking mechanism.
- The device is comfortable to wear and easy to fit. The fact that it is comfortable to wear significantly reduces tamper attempts.

When an EM device is damaged, tampered with, runs out of battery or the person leaves their approved address 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 situation 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.

You have asked:

*-Could I have comparative numbers relating to the number of bail breaches of offenders wearing electronic monitoring trackers, specifically, the number of people removing them and whether this number has increased. Perhaps comparing those breaches of previous January, Februarys to January, February 2023.*

An individual is considered to have absconded from EM Bail if they fail to submit to electronic monitoring without the prior approval of Corrections' electronic monitoring teams or where someone removes their EM device and their whereabouts are unknown.

The percentage of people on EM Bail who absconded has remained stable over the periods you have requested, with a slight increase between January 2022 and January 2023, and a slight decrease between February 2022 and February 2023.

The table shows the comparative numbers and percentages for the periods you have requested:

	<b>January 2022</b>	<b>February 2022</b>	<b>January 2023</b>	<b>February 2023</b>
<b>Total Absconds</b>	67	66	79	71
<b>People on EM Bail</b>	1568	1600	1701	1802
<b>Abscond Rate</b>	4.3%	4.1%	4.6%	3.9%

*-Could you forward me any statistics to demonstrate the number of people on bail for offences (not just EM) who have re-offended while on bail?*

Following our previous response to you, we identified that Corrections does not hold the information you requested, and we believe it is more closely related to the functions of the Ministry of Justice. We consulted the Ministry about a potential transfer under section 14 of the OIA, and they advised us that the information that the information is publicly available at: [www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/justice-statistics/data-tables/#processes](http://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/justice-statistics/data-tables/#processes)

Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'L' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Leigh Marsh  
National Commissioner