



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Improving Prison Safety: Public Consultation on Changes to the Corrections Regulations 2005

Portfolio Corrections

On 24 July 2024, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **noted** that, in line with the priority of the Minister of Corrections to increase staff safety, as noted by Cabinet in May 2024 [CAB-24-MIN-0162], the Minister proposes to consult on a package of regulatory options which aim to support the safe management of an increasing prison population;
- 2 **agreed** that the discussion document include options that:
 - 2.1 introduce additional or new cell features to support the safety of corrections officers when opening and closing cell doors in prisons;
 - 2.2 give transparency and certainty to the Department of Corrections' (Corrections) use of cameras to monitor and record prisoner activities;
 - 2.3 improve prison safety by increasing and clarifying Corrections' powers to manage funds held for prisoners in prisoner trust accounts;
 - 2.4 increase the use of different security classifications for remand prisoners to determine safe management, where practicable, to ensure remand prisoners are managed no more restrictively than necessary, and to efficiently use prison resources;
 - 2.5 update provisions relating to prisoner haircuts and the growing and removal of facial hair to remove redundant requirements and lower the risk that these requirements impact prison tensions; and
 - 2.6 ensure that the clothing and footwear worn by remand accused prisoners prioritises prison safety;
- 3 **approved** the public release of the discussion document *Consultation on options to improve safety within prisons* (the discussion document), attached to the submission under SOU-24-SUB-0080, to support a six-week public consultation process;
- 4 **noted** that, as part of the work to support staff safety in prisons, Corrections will continue to review the equipment and tactical options used by staff, and the availability of that equipment and those options;

- 5 **directed** Corrections to commence public consultation on options to improve safety within prisons as soon as the discussion document is published;
- 6 **authorised** Corrections to approve minor changes arising from editing and formatting prior to public release of the discussion document;
- 7 **noted** that the public consultation process will include targeted meetings with key partners and stakeholders held by Corrections.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon Nicola Grigg

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SOU