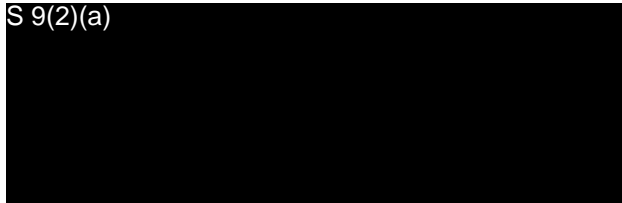


13 July 2022

C152831

S 9(2)(a)



Tēnā koe S 9(2)(a)



Thank you for your email of 2 June 2022 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about gang statistics at Northland Region Corrections Facility (NRCF). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Gangs in various forms have existed in New Zealand communities and prisons for several generations and are heavily embedded in parts of the community. In recent years there has been an increase in the proportion of the prison population with identified gang affiliations, mirroring the growth seen in gang membership within the wider community. The proportion of people in prison with gang affiliations has been steadily increasing over the last thirty years, with the latest numbers showing around 35 percent of the prison population, at any time, has an affiliation to a gang.

Gang affiliation is a known indicator of violence and it is recognised that gang members are over-represented in acts of disorder and other incidents in prisons. Corrections is determined to ensure that prisons are safe environments that promote the safety of staff and aid the rehabilitation and reintegration of people we manage – free from gang intimidations, violence and the manipulation of people and controls that aid illicit activities and anti-social behaviour.

Corrections takes all reasonable steps to discourage people from gang memberships by providing programmes and opportunities to support them to disassociate themselves from gangs and related activities. This can involve moving people to different units or prisons, building alternative support networks, or accessing services such as tattoo removal. Assistance can also include individually planned rehabilitation initiatives that help gang affiliated people address their offending behaviours, alongside support to address the ongoing drivers that lead to and maintain a person's gang affiliation or membership.

You requested:

Q1. The number of gang members in Northland corrections facilities as of May 2022 (or most recent date information is available).

Q2. The number of gang members in Northland corrections facilities in the same month as above in 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010.

Prison populations can fluctuate on a daily basis due to court decisions and scheduled releases. Please refer to the below table for a breakdown of the number of people at NRCF with a recorded gang affiliation based as at 31 May each year from 2010 to 2022.

| Date | People |
|------------|--------|
| 31/05/2010 | 100 |
| 31/05/2011 | 110 |
| 31/05/2012 | 135 |
| 31/05/2013 | 148 |
| 31/05/2014 | 118 |
| 31/05/2015 | 123 |
| 31/05/2016 | 105 |
| 31/05/2017 | 121 |
| 31/05/2018 | 112 |
| 31/05/2019 | 117 |
| 31/05/2020 | 136 |
| 31/05/2021 | 128 |
| 31/05/2022 | 96 |

Q3: The names of the gangs that have members in Northland corrections facilities as of May 2022 (or most recent date information is available), and how many members of each gang are in prison in Northland.

Please see the below table for a breakdown people with a recorded gang affiliation at NRCF as at 31 May 2022, by gang.

| Gang name | People |
|-----------------|--------|
| Black Power | 22 |
| Mongrel Mob | 18 |
| Tribesmen MC | 13 |
| Head Hunters MC | 9 |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Crips | 7 |
| Killer Beez | 7 |
| Rebels MC | 4 |
| Nomads | 3 |
| Bloods | 3 |
| Stormtrooper | 2 |
| Mongols MC | 2 |
| Comanchero MC | 1 |
| Filthy Few MC | 1 |
| Uru Taha | 1 |
| King Cobra | 1 |
| White Power | 1 |
| Other | 1 |

People in prison can be identified as having a gang-affiliation by various means, including one or more of the following:

- Gang tattoos/markings;
- Gang documentation/paraphernalia
- Information from other agencies;
- Admission to staff;
- Staff observations; and/or
- Intelligence information from other sources

When reviewing the figures provided above in response to your questions, note that Corrections' gang-affiliation figures represent any person with a known connection to a gang and this data does not differentiate between those who are confirmed patched member, associates or prospects. Noting that your questions refer to *gang-members*, the parameters of your request have been adjusted accordingly.

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, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'L' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Leigh Marsh
Acting National Commissioner