

22 February 2023

C164335

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 24 January 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about the number of shankings and stabbings at Auckland Prison. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Prisons can be volatile environments, and Auckland Prison is New Zealand's only specialist maximum security facility, which accommodates the country's most dangerous and volatile prisoners. Many prisoners have long histories of antisocial behaviour and can behave unpredictably and act without warning. Over 80 percent of the prison population have convictions for violence in their offending histories, and gang members are disproportionately identified as responsible for assaults in prison.

We have a zero tolerance for violence policy, and no violence or assault on prisoners or staff will be tolerated in prisons. Any prisoner using such behaviour will be held to account for their actions.

You requested:

1. *The number of shankings/stabbings at Paremoremo in the last five years, broken down by year.*
2. *The number of shankings/stabbings in unit 12 and 13 at Paremoremo - broken down in the last five years.*
3. *What injuries the stabbings/shankings caused.*
4. *What have the shanks being made of.*

During the time period in question, we have identified there were over 800 assault incidents at Auckland Prison. Corrections categorises and reports on assaults according to whether they were a non-injury, non-serious, or serious assault incident. As a result, we are not able to determine the nature of each assault, such as whether it involved a stabbing, what injuries resulted and what type of incident it was without manually reviewing each individual incident file.

In accordance with the OIA, we have considered whether to affix a charge or extend the time limit for responding. However, given the scale of the request we do not consider that this would be an appropriate use of our publicly funded resources. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

As per Section 18B 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, due to the nature of the request.

While we are declining this request in this instance, we would be happy to consider any future requests that may provide you the information you are after.

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



Matt Huddleston
Manager Ministerial Services
People and Capability