

29 September 2023

C172315



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 23 August 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting further information about segregation statistics. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

I note that your request relates to your previous request for information, in which you were provided segregation statistics for 2019/20 to 2022/23 financial years inclusive. That information was provided as at 31 May 2023.

You requested:

- *I would like to get the latest figures.. as part of the OIA process please.*

Please see attached as Appendix One, the same information provided to you in the above-mentioned response, but for the completed 2022/23 financial year and 2023/24 financial year, as at 31 August 2023.

Caution is urged when comparing prisons or time-periods to each other. This is because prisons differ in size and security classifications housed. Additionally, In the past year, the sentenced population has decreased slightly, however there has been an increase in the remand population. This is largely due to the volume of cases currently moving through the criminal justice system, and the increased time taken to resolve them. Quarterly prison population statistics are publicly released [here](#).

People who are remanded into custody can often be affected by a range of circumstances, they may be withdrawing from substances, their mental health needs might not be well managed and they are adjusting to being incarcerated.. With an increased remand population, the number of individuals segregated is likely to increase, due to those risk factors.

As previously advised, Corrections is committed to the safe and humane management of people in prisons and operating prison facilities in accordance with New Zealand legislation

and based on other agreements, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

In accordance with sections 58 to 60 of the Corrections Act 2004 (the Act), people in prison can be lawfully denied association with other prisoners if:

- their behaviour presents a risk to the security of the prison;
- their behaviour presents a risk to the safety of others;
- the prison's Health Centre Manager considers that it is necessary to assess or ensure
 - their mental or physical health; or,
 - the Prison Director feels it is the only reasonable way to keep the prisoner safe from themselves.

The Act is publicly available on the New Zealand legislation website at the following link: www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2004/0050/latest/DLM294849.html.

At all times, segregated prisoners can continue to be provided opportunities for exercise, access to visitors, mail, telephone calls and other minimum entitlements as set out in the Act. They also have regular and ongoing contact with Corrections staff, including our health services staff and mental health professionals as required.

There are two ways prisoners can be segregated while in prison, either directed or voluntary.

Directed segregation may be considered if staff consider the prisoner's behaviour presents a risk to the security of the prison or the safety of others, the prison's Health Centre Manager considers that it is necessary to assess or ensure their mental or physical health, or if the Prison Director feels it is the only reasonable way to keep the prisoner safe.

When a person is placed on directed segregation, they are not automatically restricted or denied association with other people in prison. The Prison Director assesses the risks the person presents and will deny association where it is appropriate. The initial decision to place a person on segregation expires after 14 days unless a request to continue is approved by the Senior Advisor to the Regional Commissioner or a Visiting Justice. The Prison Director (or their delegate) must conduct regular reviews within this timeframe to ascertain if there ceases to be any justification for the direction or there are grounds to change the person's association status.

People in prison can request to be placed on voluntary segregation for the purpose of protective custody if they fear for their own safety, or if it is deemed to be in the best interests of the individual, such as removing them from gang members as the individual tries to rehabilitate away from that lifestyle. People who are placed in voluntary segregation are accommodated in units that house other people subject to voluntary segregation, who they can associate with. Those on voluntary segregation can withdraw from the units at any time. At any one time around one-third of the prison population are voluntarily segregated.

Prison Directors have a responsibility to ensure everyone is safe and the public are protected. The option to place people on directed segregation is a preventative measure to a known or potential risk. Being placed on directed segregation is to ensure the safety of themselves and others and does not serve as a punishment. Directed segregation is a management tool used when appropriate to protect all people in prison from harm. When making decisions on the segregation of people in custody, Prison Directors consider a range of available factors, information and intelligence, and use their professional judgement in reaching such decisions.

Further information about the segregation of people in prison can be found in the Prison Operations Manual, which can be found on Corrections' website [here](#).

The Office of the Inspectorate recently completed a review of segregation in prisons. The report is available on the Inspectorate website [here](#).

As noted in our response to that report, the Chief Executive has welcomed the feedback provided by the Office of the Inspectorate. Corrections acknowledges the challenges involved in segregating prisoners and the impact on those who are segregated, and we are committed to ensuring we are targeting our efforts at those areas where we are at greatest risk of creating harm to those we choose to separate. Importantly, Corrections has accepted all seven recommendations made, and work has begun to ensure that a system wide plan for enduring change that recognises the potential risks that prolonged isolation can have on people is put in place. A copy of the Chief Executive's response to the report was included in our previous response (C169290) and is also contained in the report on the Inspectorate website linked above.

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



Leigh Marsh
National Commissioner

Appendix One – Statistics on segregation for 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years, as at 31 August 2023

The table below presents the number of unique people who started a period of segregation for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial year, as at 31 August 2023. Financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June.

Segregation Start Financial Year	Prison Site	SEG58 1A DIRECTED SECURITY GOOD ORDER	SEG58 1B DIRECTED SAFETY OF OTHERS	SEG59 1B DIRECTED PRISONER SAFETY	SEG60 1A DIRECTED PHYSICAL HEALTH	SEG60 1B DIRECTED MENTAL HEALTH	SEG59 1A VOLUNTARY PRISONER SAFETY
2022/23	Auckland Region Women’s Corrections Facility (ARWCF)	41	62	10	42	32	6
2022/23	Auckland South Corrections Facility (ASCF)	34	52	20	179	24	599
2022/23	Auckland Prison	29	138	68	52	5	332
2022/23	Mt Eden Corrections Facility (MECF)	52	454	71	309	15	2370
2022/23	Northland Region Corrections Facility (NRCF)	44	83	12	109	12	496
2022/23	Spring Hill Corrections Facility (SHCF)	76	356	67	155	1	1252
2022/23	Tongariro Prison	24	21	5	71	1	431
2022/23	Waikeria Prison	7	16	2	0	0	138
2022/23	Arohata Prison	12	4	6	61	4	22
2022/23	Hawke’s Bay Regional Prison (HBRP)	32	104	26	17	0	504
2022/23	Manawatu Prison	27	17	8	28	0	322
2022/23	Rimutaka Prison	146	302	40	71	1	982
2022/23	Whanganui Prison	18	25	2	33	4	60
2022/23	Christchurch Men’s Prison (CMP)	59	35	10	47	2	244
2022/23	Christchurch Women’s Prison (CWP)	27	10	13	74	10	11
2022/23	Invercargill Prison	21	4	8	14	11	118
2022/23	Otago Corrections Facility (OCF)	73	59	40	41	8	282
2022/23	Rolleston Prison	2	1	0	0	0	167
2023/24	ARWCF	5	21	2	0	8	2
2023/24	ASCF	19	7	7	7	6	103

2023/24	Auckland Prison	5	26	4	1	0	64
2023/24	MECF	13	128	11	3	6	566
2023/24	NRCF	7	17	2	1	2	108
2023/24	SHCF	24	58	17	1	0	283
2023/24	Tongariro Prison	1	9	0	0	0	65
2023/24	Waikeria Prison	3	7	2	1	0	17
2023/24	Arohata Prison	2	1	0	0	0	8
2023/24	HBRP	5	25	14	2	0	135
2023/24	Manawatu Prison		4	0	8	0	67
2023/24	Rimutaka Prison	23	66	6	5	0	225
2023/24	Whanganui Prison	4	1	1	2	0	31
2023/24	CMP	25	1	4	8	0	55
2023/24	CWP	3	1	2	0	0	12
2023/24	Invercargill Prison	5	3	3	5	3	35
2023/24	OCF	14	9	16	0	0	58
2023/24	Rolleston Prison	2	0	0	0	0	37

Notes for table (also applies to our previous response C169290):

- The 2023/24 financial year is incomplete, as financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June. We have provided figures up to 31 August 2023, as Corrections reports on the last day of each month.
- People can be counted once per site per year, and once per segregation type per year.
- As noted in our accompanying response, voluntary segregation is granted at the request of a prisoner.
- Caution is urged when comparing prisons or time-periods to each other. This is because prisons differ in size and security classifications housed. Quarterly prison population statistics are publicly released [here](#).

The table below presents the number of unique prisoners who started a segregation period in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 (as at 31 August 2023) financial year which has exceeded 15 consecutive days.

2022/23	ARWCF	15	16	6	3	19	5
2022/23	ASCF	19	29	10	35	16	564
2022/23	Auckland Prison	14	58	46	10	2	301
2022/23	MECF	5	108	43	4	10	1556
2022/23	NRCF	1	3	1	7	5	405
2022/23	SHCF	7	59	31	1	0	927
2022/23	Tongariro Prison	0	0	0	18	1	410
2022/23	Waikeria Prison	0	0	0	0	0	109
2022/23	Arohata Prison	2	0	2	0	1	11
2022/23	HBRP	5	13	10	0	0	419
2022/23	Manawatu Prison	7	3	1	0	0	261
2022/23	Rimutaka Prison	13	51	13	1	1	683
2022/23	Whanganui Prison	2	5	1	0	0	37
2022/23	CMP	31	11	9	9	2	192
2022/23	CWP	11	4	6	3	2	7
2022/23	Invercargill Prison	7	0	6	2	6	97
2022/23	OCF	27	25	20	2	4	214
2022/23	Rolleston Prison	0	0	0	0	0	161
2023/24	ARWCF	2	2	1	0	3	2
2023/24	ASCF	7	4	3	3	5	93
2023/24	Auckland Prison	1	11	3	0	0	59
2023/24	MECF	0	10	5	0	0	341
2023/24	NRCF	0		1	0	2	81
2023/24	SHCF	0	11	10	0	0	187
2023/24	Tongariro Prison	0	0	0	0	0	57
2023/24	Waikeria Prison	0	0	0	0	0	11

2023/24	Arohata Prison	0	0	0	0	0	6
2023/24	HBRP	0	3	6	0	0	109
2023/24	Manawatu Prison	0	1	0	0	0	55
2023/24	Rimutaka Prison	3	7	1	1	0	146
2023/24	Whanganui Prison	2	1	0	1	0	22
2023/24	CMP	13	0	0	2	0	38
2023/24	CWP	1	1	0	0	0	4
2023/24	Invercargill Prison	2	0	2	0	1	30
2023/24	OCF	3	3	10	0	0	39
2023/24	Rolleston Prison	0	0	0	0	0	36

Notes for table (also applies to our previous response C169290):

- The 2023/24 financial year is incomplete, as financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June. We have provided figures up to 31 August 2023, as Corrections reports on the last day of each month.
- People can be counted once per site per year, and once per segregation type per year.
- As noted in our accompanying response, voluntary segregation is granted at the request of a prisoner.
- Caution is urged when comparing prisons or time-periods to each other. This is because prisons differ in size and security classifications housed. Quarterly prison population statistics are publicly released [here](#).

The table below presents the number of unique prisoners who started a segregation period in 2022/23 and 2023/24 (as at 31 August 2023) which has exceeded 15 consecutive days and the person was still in prison as at 30 June 2023.

Financial year	Prison site	SEG58 1A DIRECTED SECURITY GOOD ORDER	SEG58 1B DIRECTED SAFETY OF OTHERS	SEG59 1B DIRECTED PRISONER SAFETY	SEG60 1A DIRECTED PHYSICAL HEALTH	SEG60 1B DIRECTED MENTAL HEALTH	SEG59 1A VOLUNTARY PRISONER SAFETY
2022/23	ARWCF	13	11	6	3	18	5
2022/23	ASCF	18	22	6	30	14	419
2022/23	Auckland Prison	13	53	41	10	1	271
2022/23	MECF	5	101	40	4	10	1471
2022/23	NRCF	1	3	1	6	5	362
2022/23	SHCF	4	51	30	1	0	771
2022/23	Tongariro Prison	0	0	0	15	1	311
2022/23	Waikeria Prison	0	0	0	0	0	75
2022/23	Arohata Prison	2	0	2		1	10
2022/23	HBRP	3	12	10	0	0	368
2022/23	Manawatu Prison	6	3	1	0	0	225
2022/23	Rimutaka Prison	11	48	9	1	1	629
2022/23	Whanganui Prison	2	5	1	0	0	34
2022/23	CMP	29	10	7	9	2	170
2022/23	CWP	10	4	6	3	2	7
2022/23	Invercargill Prison	6		5	2	6	85
2022/23	OCF	23	21	20	1	4	189
2022/23	Rolleston Prison	0	0	0	0	0	141
2023/24	ARWCF		2	1	0	3	2
2023/24	ASCF	7	4	2	3	4	85
2023/24	Auckland Prison	1	6	3	0	0	58
2023/24	MECF	0	9	5	0	0	333
2023/24	NRCF	0	0	1	0	1	81

2023/24	SHCF	0	10	9	0	0	176
2023/24	Tongariro Prison	0	0	0	0	0	54
2023/24	Waikeria Prison	0	0	0	0	0	11
2023/24	Arohata Prison	0	0	0	0	0	5
2023/24	HBRP	0	3	6	0	0	102
2023/24	Manawatu Prison	0	1	0	0	0	53
2023/24	Rimutaka Prison	3	7	1	1	0	141
2023/24	Whanganui Prison	2	1	0	0	0	19
2023/24	CMP	11	0	0	2	0	38
2023/24	CWP	1	1	0	0	0	4
2023/24	Invercargill Prison	2	0	2	0	1	28
2023/24	OCF	3	2	9	0	0	38
2023/24	Rolleston Prison	0	0	0	0	0	35

Notes for table (also applies to our previous response C169290):

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- People can be counted once per site per year, and once per segregation type per year.
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