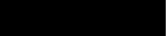


28 June 2023

C168288



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 2 May 2023 to the Ministry of Justice, requesting information about the New Zealand remand population. As part of your request was deemed to be more closely related to the functions of the Department of Corrections - Ara Poutama Aotearoa, it was transferred to Corrections for response in accordance with section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Your request has been considered under the OIA.

Corrections manages people at the direction of the Courts and the New Zealand Parole Board – we do not determine whether a person is sentenced to prison or the length of their sentence. We also do not determine whether someone is remanded in custody, or the length of time they are on remand.

As you may be aware, there are two types of remand prisoners:

- Remand accused: a person who has not been found (or pleaded) guilty of the charge(s) laid against them; and,
- Remand convicted: a person who has been found (or pleaded) guilty of the charge(s) laid against them, but the sentence they are to serve has not yet been determined by the courts.

A sentenced person has both been convicted of the charge(s) against them and been sentenced by the Courts.

Remand accused people are required to be kept separate from sentenced prisoners. Some prisons house a higher proportion of remand prisoners, while others house primarily sentenced prisoners. The amount of time a person spends on remand is dependent on how long it takes for the judicial process to be completed by the Courts and is influenced by factors including the complexity of the case and the plea entered.

Although decisions to remand a person in custody are determined by the Courts, Corrections is continuing to work towards long term reductions in the remand population through the High Impact Innovation Programme (HIIP).

HIIP has operated a number of initiatives to prevent unnecessary delays for people in the justice system, both for people on remand and those who have been sentenced. The

initiatives improve information flow and access to information, which enables informed decision-making by the judiciary or New Zealand Parole Board as quickly and safely as possible. The initiatives also provide increased support to people in the justice system, reduce harm and improve the likelihood of someone complying with any conditions imposed on them by the Courts or New Zealand Parole Board.

An example of a long-standing HIIP initiative being implemented into Corrections as business as usual following a successful pilot is the Bail Support Services (BSS). BSS is a multi-year programme of work that aims to better support people in the application and maintenance of bail, and achieve positive change early in their justice system journey. BSS offers tailored support for people to address their social needs, while navigating through the justice sector. An example of support provided through BSS is the assistance people are offered in finding suitable bail accommodation where possible. BSS is currently being implemented across New Zealand with support from justice sector partners, including the Ministry of Justice.

Corrections is also working across the country to reduce the time it takes for people remanded in custody to be sentenced after conviction. The Sentencing Ready team is a cross agency team, led by Corrections, with staff also based within the Ministry of Justice. The team works with parties who contribute to sentencing hearings to help make sure all necessary information is available at these hearings. When all required information is presented at a hearing, Judges are better able to make decisions without having to adjourn the hearing and delay sentencing. This can mean people spend less time remanded in custody awaiting a sentencing outcome. Once their community-based or prison sentence begins people have more opportunity to access rehabilitation.

You requested:

Data for the last ten years showing the average time people were held on remand nationally and by region.

Please see the following table which shows the average time, in days, that people were held on remand nationally and in each region for the last 10 financial years. Please note that the 2022/23 financial year is not yet complete. The data for that year is provided until 30/04/2023.

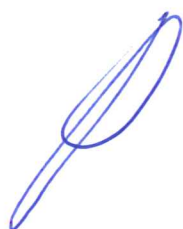
Financial year	Nationally	Northern Region	Central Region	Lower North Region	Southern Region
2012/13	58	66	50	54	54
2013/14	56	61	46	54	56
2014/15	59	63	53	52	62
2015/16	63	67	53	58	69
2016/17	66	67	58	63	75
2017/18	71	72	63	71	78
2018/19	68	67	64	69	77
2019/20	76	75	71	72	89

2020/21	75	74	77	73	82
2021/22	77	75	77	75	87
2022/23*	77	75	77	73	89

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