

13 March 2023

C164973

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 February 2023, to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about the escape of three men on Auckland’s southern motorway. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

All comms between Corrections, Police and First Security after three prisoners escaped from a custody van on February 10 at 2.40pm on Auckland's southern motorway - including text messages, emails, job sheets. When were corrections, police and first security first alerted? How did they manage to escape? Any CCTV footage or body cam footage captured before and after the escape.

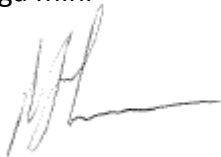
Public safety is our top priority. Any escape is unacceptable and an immediate review into how this incident occurred is being undertaken in how three men who were remanded into custody in court absconded from a First Security prisoner escort van while being transferred to Mt Eden Corrections Facility on the 10 February 2023.

As the review is still in progress, and as the New Zealand Police are also undertaking an investigation, which may result in charges being laid, we are unable to release any information to you at this stage. As such, your request is refused under section 6(c) of the OIA as releasing any information may prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

While we are declining your request in this instance, we would be happy to reconsider it at an appropriate time in the future once the above investigations have been concluded.

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 black ink, appearing to be 'MH' followed by a horizontal line.

Matt Huddleston
Manager Ministerial Services
People and Capability