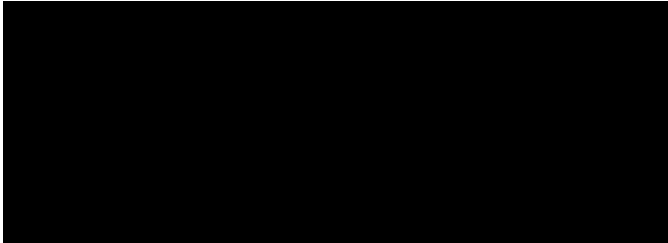



10 August 2023

C169662



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 14 June 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about Corrections’ property portfolio. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

1. *How many staff work within your organisation to procure property (to own or lease) for your organisation.*

As at 14 June 2023, four staff work for the Department of Corrections who manage corporate and community (non-custodial) facility requirements which may include procuring new sites as needs arise (more commonly through a leasing arrangement). Currently no staff are tasked with procuring custodial sites.

2. *How many square meters of floor space does your organisation manage (owns/leases) in total, excluding any that is managed by the Government Property Group on behalf of your organisation, and how this compares to each year for the past five years.*

Corrections’ community corrections and corporate portfolio of owned/leased sites currently comprises of approximately 91,400 square metres (m²) of floor space.

Information on Corrections’ community corrections and corporate property portfolio is published publicly on an annual basis, and therefore this information for previous years is refused in accordance with section 18(d) of the OIA, on the grounds that it is publicly available information. Please refer to Select Committee responses for prior years which can be found on our website here;

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic_reports/select_committees.

Corrections also owns the Auckland Prison Housing Village (Paremoremo Housing Block) comprising 97 residential dwellings. The total area of these properties is approximately 10,564m² and has not changed over the previous five years.

Prison facilities are managed either by our outsource Asset Management/Facilities Management providers or under our Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreements. Prison sites comprise a variety of administration, staff, accommodation, health, training and rehabilitation buildings, as well as buildings housing support functions.

Information on prison facilities' floor space by square meter does not currently exist in a form that can be readily supplied to you and would instead require Corrections to initiate a project to extract, analyse and present the data in the form requested. 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.

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.

As per section 18B of the OIA, 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.

3. *For the properties that your organisation manages (owns/leases), what per cent of these properties in total are currently occupied, and how is this broken down by each property.*

Current occupancy percentage of all properties Corrections manages is not held in any readily retrievable format. To identify this type of specific information, we would be required to consult extensively across the organisation and with our outsourced or PPP providers.

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 of the OIA, 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.

We can advise, however, that within the community corrections portfolio we currently have two out of the 95 owned/leased premises unoccupied due to relocating operations to new sites.

The Auckland Prison Housing Village is on average 87 percent occupied. Please note that some houses are currently unavailable for tenancy due to Healthy Homes upgrade works being undertaken.

Occupancy within custodial sites varies from day to day and periodically due to a variety of factors, for example, daily variance in numbers of people that we manage due to the commencement or ending of sentences, transfers between sites, and construction and maintenance works which may render parts of the site temporarily unoccupied.

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



Alastair Turrell
Deputy Chief Executive
Infrastructure and Digital Assets