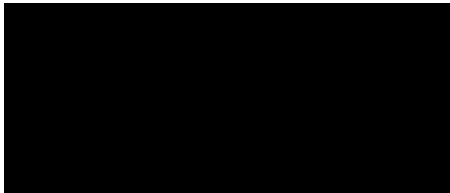


27 March 2023

C165693



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 27 February 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about 3D printed weapons. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The safety and security of our sites, staff, visitors and the people we manage is our top priority. Contraband, particularly weapons, can create significant safety risks in prisons. We place significant emphasis on the prevention and detection of contraband introduction in prisons and we are constantly working to stay one step ahead of new methods used to introduce contraband.

You requested:

*Have any 3D printed, or suspected 3D printed, weapons been seized from any corrections sites?*

*If so, please break down by: Where seized from (i.e., a cell, an entrance-way), the type of item (i.e., knife, kuckleduster, firearm), the site seized from (i.e., at which prison)*

*Please attach any incident or seizure reports from the Southern region pertaining to said 3D printed or suspected 3D printed weapons*

*Please attach any briefings or circulars prepared on the issue of 3D printed weapons. It is not a requirement or common practice for handover notes and emails to be created or photographs to be taken as a result of contraband being found. However, an item may be photographed if it is perishable or is of significant interest to Corrections or New Zealand Police.*

We have not identified any information indicating that any confirmed or suspected 3D printed weapons have been seized from any Corrections site. In our attempts to identify any information that would assist with your enquiry, we have checked with the team supporting

Corrections' Chief Custodial Officer, who has oversight of Corrections-managed prisons throughout New Zealand. This team is not aware of any confirmed or suspected 3D printed weapons being found, or any circulars or briefings related to this topic.

The Intelligence team, and the team responsible for providing data about contraband, have also confirmed they do not hold information about 3D-printed contraband. Given your interest in Corrections' Southern Region, we have also checked with each prison site in this region and completed a comprehensive search of the region's intelligence database. No information about 3D-printed weapons was found.

We cannot guarantee that a 3D-printed weapon has never been found at a Corrections site, or that no staff member has ever suspected that a weapon that was found had been 3D printed. However, we are confident that we have conducted a thorough search which is likely to have found any information we hold within the scope of your request.

Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information you have requested is not held by Corrections, and we have not grounds for believing that the information would be held by or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

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