

14 February 2023

C161829



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your emails of 28 November 2022 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information and data about people managed by Corrections in prison. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

I ask that you please provide me with all information in regards to processes which take place when people are remanded in custody within your penal institution/'s, along with how many people are currently being held on remand within your penal institution/'s at your sight.

Corrections manages people at the direction of the Courts and the New Zealand Parole Board. We do not determine who is in prison and who is in the community, and are not responsible for the number of people who are remanded into custody.

There are two types of definitions for people on remand:

- Remand Accused: a person who has not yet been found (or pleaded) guilty of the charge(s) laid against them
- 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

Remand Accused people are legally required to be kept separate from sentenced prisoners. Some prisons house a higher proportion of people on remand, while others primarily house people who are sentenced. 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.

The following table shows the number of people who were in custody on remand on 30 November 2022. Please note, Auckland South Corrections Facility, Tongariro Prison and Rolleston Prison had no people on remand on this date and are therefore not included in the table below.

Prison/Corrections Facility	Number of people on remand
Arohata Prison	62
Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility	158
Auckland Prison	146
Christchurch Prison	417
Christchurch Women's Prison	47
Hawke's Bay Regional Prison	187
Invercargill Prison	51
Manawatu Prison	92
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	842
Northland Region Corrections Facility	232
Otago Corrections Facility	189
Rimutaka Prison	360
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	369
Waikeria Prison	67
Whanganui Prison	171

Please provide me with information regarding the percentage of minimum security, low security and low medium security inmates within our current, overall prison population.

The following table shows the percentage of each security classification within the sentenced prison population as at 30 November 2022. Security classifications do not apply to those in custody on remand.

Minimum	36%
Low	19%
Low Medium	24%
High	16%
Maximum	2%
Unclassified ¹	3%

¹ People who are awaiting classification

I am hoping you will inform me of the percentage of our current prison population who belong to the 'remand: accused' population, who have not yet been convicted or entered a plea for a criminal offence.

As at 30 November 2022, 28 percent of the prison population were classified as Remand Accused and had not yet been convicted of an offence. Corrections is not able to provide the plea status for those in remand, as we do not hold that level of charge information. In addition, it is important to note that this is not the entire remand population.

Please provide me with as much information as possible regarding how many people in our current remand prison population identify as homeless, or as having no safe address to be bailed to.

Corrections does not regularly record pre-custody addresses for people on remand. In addition, we do not hold data regarding the reasons that bail was declined, which would be essential to determine whether address related concerns contributed in any way to the decision of the Court to decline bail. Such data would be necessary to determine whether there was no 'safe' address for bail.

Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

Please provide any information you have regarding the amount or percentage of people within the current overall prison population who have been identified as having some type of mental/cognitive disorder (ADHD, PTSD, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Schizophrenia, Bipolar etc).

We are doing more than ever in the area of mental health and are being proactive in ensuring people in prison have access to the specialist mental health support they need and that our staff have the appropriate tools and resources to keep people safe from harm. When a person enters prison, our immediate priority is to meet their mental and physical health needs. They undergo an induction process, where health staff assess their health needs, including any mental health needs, whether they may be at risk of self-harm or suicide and whether they require a referral to a prison doctor. People may be referred to a range of mental health services depending on their level of need.

The total prison population on 30 November 2022 was 8,063 people. Of these, 11.5 percent (930 people) have had a Read Code² related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Serious Mental Illness (SMI). SMI is defined as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, severe anxiety disorder and severe depression.

² READ codes are a classification that indicate a diagnosed illness or disease. These codes are entered into a patient's electronic file after they have been seen by a health professional. This is a manual process so accuracy is not guaranteed, and reliability issues are exacerbated by a lack of recommended/standardised READ codes"

As you may be aware, a 2016 study found that 91% of people in prison had a lifetime diagnosis of a mental health or substance use disorder and 62% had a diagnosis within the prior 12 months. This research is available [here](#).

I would like to know what percentage of the current, overall prison population have been identified as having some type of substance abuse issues (alcohol or other illicit/legal substances).

The ASSIST is the Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test developed by the World Health Organisation to assist with early identification of substance use related health risks and substance use disorders in primary health care, general medical care and other settings. It involves asking people questions about their alcohol and drug use across their lifetime and in the past three months. The ASSIST score helps inform the appropriate level of intervention required (i.e. low, moderate or high) to reduce the risk of substance-related harm and build recovery capital. Recovery capital incorporates pro-social attitudes, skills, and connections which support recovery from substance-related harm. The modified version of the ASIST used in Corrections does not include tobacco, as prison health services already have a comprehensive screening process linked to the provision of nicotine replacement therapy.

As of November 2022, 79% of the prison population had been screened using the ASSIST at some time in their offending history. Of these, 58% were identified as having some degree of risk of substance use related harm.

Please provide me with information relating to exactly what rehabilitative, reintegrative, educational or pre-employment programmes you have available at each of your prisons across the country. If you could provide me with a list that would be very helpful.

We have a duty of care to people in prison – not only to keep them safe and well, but also to give them every opportunity to make changes in their lives. We provide rehabilitation and reintegration services to help people address the causes of their offending and build positive relationships with their whānau at every step of their sentence or order. By helping people break the cycle of re-offending we also help keep the public safe.

We also take a wellbeing approach in how we provide health services, mental health and addiction programmes, cultural support services, educational opportunities, vocational and employment training, motivational sessions, offence-focused programmes, wrap-around whānau support, reintegration services, intensive residential programmes, and transitional accommodation support to people in prison.

Each person's rehabilitative and reintegrative pathway is unique and based on many considerations. This includes the nature of their offending, their risk of re-offending, their motivation to change, their physical and mental wellbeing, and the support they have around them. In prisons, case managers work with people one-on-one to identify their rehabilitation needs and match these with available programmes to be completed throughout their sentence. Iwi providers, whanau, psychologists, programme facilitators,

mental health clinicians, education tutors, industry instructors, reintegration service providers, and many other staff and external partners also play an important role in this process.

We offer a wider range of rehabilitation programmes, employment activities, education and training to cater to the varying needs of people in prison. More information and examples of these programmes can be found on our website [here](#).

Each of these programmes is delivered by numerous different providers across all prisons. Providing an exhaustive list of rehabilitative, reintegrative, educational and pre-employment programmes available at each site would require the assessment of a large quantity of data. This part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In accordance with section 18A and 18B of the OIA we have considered whether fixing a charge, extending the time limit or asking you to refine or amend your request would enable us to provide a response. However, given the scale of the request, we do not consider that this would be an appropriate use of our publicly funded resources.

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



Dr Juanita Ryan
Deputy Chief Executive
Health