

16 December 2022

C161424

S 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe S 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 17 November 2022 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about people who have been convicted of murder. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Public safety is our top priority. Corrections manages people at the direction of the Courts and the New Zealand Parole Board (NZPB). We do not determine who is in prison and who is in the community.

You requested:

Please read community-based sentences as including community orders. Please also differentiate the figures between intentional murders and other homicides. I would like to kindly request the actual figures for the number of:

1. *incarcerated murderers*
 - a. *2022 - March, June, Sept, and (depending on when this request is processed) November or December*
 - b. *2021 - March, June, Sept, December*
 - c. *2020 - March, June, September*
 - d. *2019 - March, June, December*
 - e. *2018 - March, June, Sept, December*

The table below shows the number of people in prison as at 30 November 2022, who were under a sentence where the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) category is 'Homicide And Related Offences' as at each month end. The category shown is the ANZSOC sub-category.

Month End	Murder	Attempts To Murder	Manslaughter And Driving Causing Death	Homicide And Related Offences Not Further Defined
31/03/2018	540	35	98	-
30/06/2018	554	37	100	-
30/09/2018	546	34	99	-

Month End	Murder	Attempts To Murder	Manslaughter And Driving Causing Death	Homicide And Related Offences Not Further Defined
31/12/2018	547	34	95	-
31/03/2019	541	32	100	-
30/06/2019	536	32	97	-
30/09/2019	544	32	95	-
31/12/2019	547	35	97	-
31/03/2020	552	34	89	-
30/06/2020	557	34	88	-
30/09/2020	562	32	98	-
31/12/2020	557	30	98	-
31/03/2021	559	32	103	-
30/06/2021	551	32	97	-
30/09/2021	544	31	96	-
31/12/2021	549	35	104	-
31/03/2022	540	31	107	-
30/06/2022	544	33	110	-
30/09/2022	554	34	106	1
30/11/2022	549	33	104	-

2. *Of convicted murderers on community-based sentences as at November 2022 or the latest current figures.*
3. *Of convicted murderers on the community-based sentences for homicide, a breakdown of the type of sentence (including the number of life-parolees) by number - as at November 2022 or the latest figures.*

The table below presents the number of people who are serving a community-based sentence as at 30 November 2022, where ANZSOC category is 'Homicide And Related Offences'. The category shown is the ANZSOC sub-category.

Sentence type	Murder	Attempts To Murder	Manslaughter And Driving Causing Death	Homicide And Related Offences Not Further Defined
Parole	194	24	52	-
Community Work	-	-	22	-
Post Detention Conditions	-	-	12	-
Home Detention	-	-	11	1
Community Detention	-	-	5	-
Intensive Supervision	-	-	5	-
Released On Conditions	-	-	1	-
Supervision	-	-	1	-
Extended Supervision Order	-	1	-	-
Total	194	25	109	1

4. *Of convicted murderers on life parole who breached the terms of life parole between November 2020 and November 2022 (or ending in the latest figures) and the number of breaches, and the type of breaches.*

The table below shows the number of people on life parole who breached their terms of life parole between 01 November 2020 and 30 November 2022. Please note this provides the number of people who have been breached, not the number of breaches.

Murder	Attempts To Murder	Manslaughter And Driving Causing Death	Homicide And Related Offences Not Further Defined
36	6	19	-

5. *Of murder-convicted parolees who have been recalled to prison for breaching the terms of their parole.*

The table below shows the number of people recalled to prison between 01 November 2020 and 30 November 2022.

Murder	Attempts To Murder	Manslaughter And Driving Causing Death	Homicide And Related Offences Not Further Defined
50	6	19	-

Note:

- People on parole can be recalled for several reasons, which can be summarised as breaching conditions, reoffending, or an increase in risk that the NZPB) considers incompatible with continued Parole.
- We are unable to identify if the recall was a result of a parole breach without reading each of the individual hearing decisions as NZPB recall decisions are recorded in free text. It would not suffice to only count recalls where a breach is present, as the breach may be minor in nature and inconsequential in the considerations of the NZPB when making the decision to recall.

6. *Of repeat murderers who are incarcerated as at November 2022 (or the latest figures).*

For the purpose of responding to your request, 'Repeated murders' are defined here as someone who has committed murder after being previously convicted of murder.

This covers both:

- someone who has spent time in prison for murder then been released, and then subsequently been reconvicted of murder and sent back to prison.
- someone who kills while serving a prison sentence for murder.

As at 30 November 2022, there are two people who are repeat murderers as defined above.

7. the number of repeat murderers who are serving community-based sentences as at November 2022 (or the latest figures).

As at 30 November 2022, there is one repeat murderer, as defined in response to question six, who is subject to life parole.

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
Acting National Commissioner