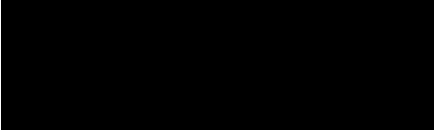
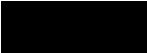




07 November 2024

C187591



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your emails of 26 September 2024 to both the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), requesting information about inter-prison transfers. As you are aware, as the information requested more closely relates to the functions of Corrections, your request to MOJ was transferred to Corrections for response in accordance with section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Your request has been considered under the OIA.

Public safety is our top priority. As part of our regular operations, we carry out tens of thousands of prisoner escorts each year between prisons, courts, specialist medical facilities, and rehabilitation providers. Additionally, people are transferred between prisons for a variety of reasons including to attend court, for safety and security reasons, and to effectively manage the prison population. All escorts are planned to minimise risk to the safety and security of staff, people in prison, and the public.

Some transfers are planned in advance, while some are for a specific, immediate purpose. A variety of transport methods, including road transport and flights are used. Further information on how and why we carry out inter-prison transfers is available in the Prison Operations Manual on our website here:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Movement/M.04-External-movement-transportation-of-prisoners/M.04.03-Inter-prison-transfers.

You requested:

Could I please request under the Official Information Act data about inter-prison transfers.

Could I please find how much was spent on inter-prison transfers New Zealand's 18 prisons, split up into each prison's yearly spend, for each of the past five years.

In the 2023/24 financial year alone, Corrections completed a total of 11,228 inter-prison transfers. The cost of transfers of prisoners between prisons is not centrally collated or readily extractable. These costs are absorbed within wider operational budgets as part of our business-as-usual operations. The number of people transferred at any one time can vary, as does the number of staff required to safely escort the prisoners during the transfer. Staffing resources, fuel costs, mode of transport, and distance travelled are further factors which would all need to be taken into consideration to calculate accurate figures to answer this part of your request.

The information you have requested 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(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.

Could I also please have a breakdown (total number for each reason) as to what the reasons for each of these transfers at each prison was for the same five years.

Please see the requested information attached as Appendix One, which contains the number of transfers completed per year, for the last five full financial years, broken down by the prison that they were transferred from and the reported reason for the transfer.

Note that some people will be counted more than once within each financial year if they transferred between prisons multiple times within that period. Fewer inter-prison transfers between 2020 and 2022 can be attributed to a combination of COVID-19 restrictions and a lower prison population during this period. In 2022/23, Corrections consolidated the prison population and closed beds at some prisons, which resulted in an increase in inter-prison transfers.

Further information on the prison population, including the number of people at each prison across New Zealand, is published quarterly on our website here:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/statistics/quarterly_prison_statistics.

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 hope this information is helpful. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to 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 blue ink, consisting of a stylized, elongated loop with a vertical stroke through it, resembling a cursive 'L' or 'M'.

Leigh Marsh
Commissioner Custodial Services

C187591 - Appendix One - Prison transfers for the last five years

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024									
Prison	Accepted for Programme	Judicial	Medical	Personal Request	Placement Management	Placement Review	Population Management	Release	Total
Arohata Prison	8	6	0	1	0	0	6	1	22
Auckland Regional Woman's Corrections Facility	0	10	0	4	0	1	8	4	27
Auckland South Corrections Facility	180	58	3	33	23	10	79	24	410
Auckland Men's Prison	18	72	0	69	71	54	77	28	389
Christchurch Men's Prison	9	52	3	72	108	33	563	30	870
Christchurch Women's Prison	0	3	0	2	4	1		1	11
Hawkes Bay Regional Prison	46	137	7	22	44	27	97	33	413
Invercargill Prison	13	29	6	4	57	2	48	9	168
Manawatu Prison	21	142	18	17	15	15	235	33	496
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	6	214	3	94	66	75	2295	22	2776
Northern Region Corrections Facility	34	239	4	7	60	30	12	61	447
Otago Corrections Facility	24	256	9	28	72	32	85	90	596
Rimutaka Prison	55	754	20	38	55	51	126	101	1200
Rolleston Prison	22	4	1	10	25	32	12	29	135
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	49	292	8	172	78	39	1038	33	1709
Tongariro Prison	57	26	6	4	22	13	13	35	176
Waikeria Prison	59	41	1	12	48	52	31	20	264
Whanganui Prison	44	226	8	42	28	34	697	40	1119
Total	645	2561	97	631	776	501	5422	594	11228

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023									
Prison	Accepted for Programme	Judicial	Medical	Personal Request	Placement Management	Placement Review	Population Management	Release	Total
Arohata Prison	7	4	1	2	3	0	8	0	69
Auckland Regional Woman's Corrections Facility	2	8	0	7	4	1	0	3	25
Auckland South Corrections Facility	148	91	6	38	38	17	97	21	457
Auckland Men's Prison	26	112	1	59	95	55	82	24	498
Christchurch Men's Prison	12	63	1	65	79	29	376	17	747
Christchurch Women's Prison	0	7	0	4	3	0	0	4	18
Hawkes Bay Regional Prison	45	112	10	39	54	44	126	26	456
Invercargill Prison	9	27	6	4	48	7	27	12	147
Manawatu Prison	22	73	9	16	32	15	123	27	369
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	7	246	9	70	53	257	1184	36	1967
Northern Region Corrections Facility	32	218	8	8	91	38	6	69	470
Otago Corrections Facility	9	199	6	31	38	22	93	59	478

Rimutaka Prison	60	457	15	34	45	38	75	108	843
Rolleston Prison	36	3	1	5	25	37	5	25	137
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	54	226	3	177	86	41	1137	31	1862
Tongariro Prison	74	24	12	6	14	38	1	34	203
Waikeria Prison	57	44	4	20	37	77	62	14	338
Whanganui Prison	19	105	6	34	30	139	488	26	852
Total	619	2019	98	619	775	855	3890	536	9936

1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022									
Prison	Accepted for Programme	Judicial	Medical	Personal Request	Placement Management	Placement Review	Population Management	Release	Total
Arohata Prison	3	8	0	1	7	3	11	1	34
Auckland Regional Woman's Corrections Facility	13	9	0	1	9	2	0	1	35
Auckland South Corrections Facility	115	30	0	12	28	15	8	34	242
Auckland Men's Prison	31	30	18	31	54	71	60	46	342
Christchurch Men's Prison	27	53	1	26	38	29	301	27	502
Christchurch Women's Prison	0	1	0	0	6	0	1	0	8
Hawkes Bay Regional Prison	47	58	13	20	53	68	88	34	381
Invercargill Prison	8	17	3	3	31	3	21	11	102
Manawatu Prison	22	36	4	3	41	13	44	16	181
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	10	193	7	29	39	366	554	49	1247
Northern Region Corrections Facility	29	174	5	8	47	42	3	97	405
Otago Corrections Facility	8	103	4	11	35	10	20	46	237
Rimutaka Prison	41	116	1	26	43	56	88	88	461
Rolleston Prison	17	1	2	5	10	24	6	14	79
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	53	91	3	80	49	185	773	58	1320
Tongariro Prison	55	13	5	2	9	21	2	38	145
Waikeria Prison	51	21	1	4	53	42	18	17	207
Whanganui Prison	23	30	7	1	27	67	43	32	230
Total	553	984	74	263	579	1017	2041	609	6158

1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021									
Prison	Accepted for Programme	Judicial	Medical	Personal Request	Placement Management	Placement Review	Population Management	Release	Total
Arohata Prison	5	7	0	4	5	26	4	5	56
Auckland Regional Woman's Corrections Facility	28	22	0	4	7	6	0	1	68
Auckland South Corrections Facility	168	52	3	33	59	6	8	10	339
Auckland Men's Prison	43	53	3	29	50	90	50	21	339
Christchurch Men's Prison	50	46	1	36	48	84	151	22	438

Christchurch Women's Prison	2	2	0	1	4	0	0	0	9
Hawkes Bay Regional Prison	65	81	11	40	40	62	54	41	394
Invercargill Prison	32	17	4	3	25	27	4	12	124
Manawatu Prison	16	71	16	12	39	14	56	7	231
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	22	485	13	52	44	663	335	23	1637
Northern Region Corrections Facility	85	213	21	9	51	65	47	102	593
Otago Corrections Facility	34	89	8	22	22	55	3	61	294
Rimutaka Prison	67	179	6	48	48	55	53	93	549
Rolleston Prison	26	2	1	5	19	89	20	12	174
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	81	302	13	65	75	68	728	20	1352
Tongariro Prison	75	13	3	10	13	18		23	155
Waikeria Prison	80	104	8	32	110	46	549	10	939
Whanganui Prison	30	52	5	23	23	115	126	42	416
Total	909	1790	116	428	682	1489	2188	505	8107

1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020									
Prison	Accepted for Programme	Judicial	Medical	Personal Request	Placement Management	Placement Review	Population Management	Release	Total
Arohata Prison	8	20	0	11	1	21	1	11	73
Auckland Regional Woman's Corrections Facility	17	12	0	7	3	1	17	3	60
Auckland South Corrections Facility	167	59	3	13	44	30	2	11	329
Auckland Men's Prison	26	62	3	31	20	110	82	29	363
Christchurch Men's Prison	73	69	3	47	32	88	298	11	621
Christchurch Women's Prison	5	4	0	7	1	4	16	1	38
Hawkes Bay Regional Prison	50	100	9	18	41	72	66	32	388
Invercargill Prison	13	26	12	5	29	34	14	13	146
Manawatu Prison	14	78	5	6	64	34	120	12	333
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	3	345	8	42	58	460	1400	20	2336
Northern Region Corrections Facility	68	186	17	18	46	29	232	81	677
Otago Corrections Facility	48	156	7	33	25	55	12	82	418
Rimutaka Prison	62	371	14	35	54	69	65	113	783
Rolleston Prison	39	3	2	5	8	71	3	22	153
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	72	529	5	33	48	44	155	15	901
Tongariro Prison	80	13	8	3	12	9		21	146
Waikeria Prison	68	170	3	32	28	42	652	26	1021
Whanganui Prison	42	111	6	16	37	75	31	41	359
Total	855	2314	105	362	551	1248	3166	544	9145

Key	
Transfer Grouping	Legislative Reasons under the Corrections Act 2004 section 54
Accepted for Programme	for reintegration / rehabilitation purposes
	to address offender plan activities
Judicial	for judicial purposes
	the transfer is pursuant of section 143 of Sentencing Act 2002
Medical	to provide medical care
Personal Request	prisoner requested transfer
Placement Management	to ensure safety of prisoner or any other person
	to reduce the risk of suicide or self-harm
	transfer has been directed by CE / an inspector
Placement Review	To assist in the likelihood of reducing reoffending
	to be in or closer to home region
	due to a change in security classification
	to allow for repairs or alterations at the prison
Population Management	for muster management purpose
	to separate different category of prisoners
	to restore or maintain security and order of the prison