



# Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Corrections' High Security Capacity Programme Business Case

Portfolio Corrections

On 29 July 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the *Long-Term Network Configuration Plan*, supported by Cabinet in October 2024 [EXP-24-MIN-0055], outlined a 20-year plan for investment in the prison network and identified investment in high-security capacity as the priority;
- 2 **noted** that a High Security Capacity Programme Business Case, attached under EXP-25-SUB-0069, was developed to guide prudent investment in high-security capacity in the prison network to meet demand and address existing quality issues;
- 3 **noted** that Corrections' prison population planning, overlaid on top of Justice Sector Projections and possible future policy changes, suggest that there could be a potential acute shortfall in men's high-security capacity by early 2027, and that projections do not factor in the impact of pending legislation, which could see the prison population further increase;
- 4 **noted** that even with Corrections leveraging all options to increase high-security capacity in the network, if the current growth trajectory continues, there will still be a potential acute shortfall in prison capacity by early 2027;
- 5 **endorsed** the preferred way forward recommended in the High Security Capacity Programme Business Case, to progress a targeted combination of the investment types for high-security capacity over the next 20 years (Option 4);
- 6 **noted** that the High Security Capacity Programme Business Case provides a framework for high-security capacity infrastructure projects, enabling investments to be progressed through single stage business cases;
- 7 **noted** that the first Single Stage Business Case to deliver the preferred way forward is the Accelerated Capacity Project, which will be seeking approval to self-fund up to 9(2)(b)(i), 9(2)(j) capital and up to 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j) per annum of asset related operating costs through reallocation within baselines;
- 8 **noted** that a Gateway Review prior to Cabinet consideration of the Accelerated Capacity Project Single Stage Business Case was not able to be undertaken due to the constrained timeframes to deliver capacity ahead of forecast acute shortfalls in 2027, and that an alternative assurance process has been initiated to provide Ministers with a level of confidence in the project and Corrections' ability to deliver;

- 9      **approved** the Accelerated Capacity Project progressing to Cabinet in August 2025 without it having undertaken an initial Gateway Review;
- 10     **noted** that each high-security investment as set out in the High Security Capacity Programme Business Case is still subject to Cabinet approvals following consideration of individual single stage business cases;
- 11     **invited** the Minister of Corrections to return to Cabinet with the single stage business case for the Accelerated Capacity Project in August 2025.

Sam Moffett  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour (Chair)  
Hon Nicola Willis  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Mark Mitchell  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon James Meager

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for EXP  
Office of the Attorney-General