



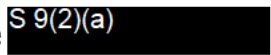
29 September 2022

C155745

S 9(2)(a)



Tēnā koe S 9(2)(a)



Thank you for your email of 3 August 2022 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about serious incidents in youth units. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

On 31 August 2022, you were advised that Corrections extended the due date of our response to your pursuant to section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA. I apologise for the delay and thank you for your patience.

For clarification, you received a response from our Communications Team on 4 August 2022 relating directly to an incident at the youth unit at Hawke's Bay Regional Prison. In this response, we advised that a review into the incident is likely to take several months to complete. We also advised that the matter has been referred to Police and, therefore it is not appropriate to provide any further information regarding the incident, including any incident reports, at this stage to avoid prejudicing any potential criminal charges or court proceedings.

On 4 August 2022, you clarified your request to be for:

- *Any incident reports about serious incidents at the Hawke's Bay Regional prison youth unit in the last three years*
- *Any completed reviews of any serious incidents at the Hawke's Bay Regional Prison youth unit in the last three years*

Corrections regularly reports data on incidents in the Annual Reports and Select Committee Annual Reviews. In line with these established reporting measures, serious incidents are those classified as serious assaults, unnatural and natural deaths, and instances of self-harm where a threat to life was identified.

There have been no serious incidents in the youth unit at Hawke's Bay Regional Prison over the past three financial years. Therefore, no incident reports or reviews have been required. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA, as the

requested documents do not exist. Pursuant to section 18B, we have considered consulting with you to clarify this part of your request, but we do not consider that this would assist us to respond at this time.

- *The number of serious incidents at each youth unit at every Corrections prison over the last three years. Please categorise the incidents into type of incident and provide them in a table.*

Please see the below table for the number of serious incidents in youth units, broken down by category and year.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Serious assault – prisoner on staff	-	1	-
Serious assault – prisoner on prisoner	-	-	-
Unnatural deaths	-	-	-
Natural deaths	-	-	-
Self-harm- threat to life	-	-	1

The self-harm and serious assault – prisoner on staff incidents occurred at the youth unit at Christchurch Men’s Prison.

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

Ben Clark   
National Commissioner (acting)