

27 March 2026

C210888

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 25 February 2026 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about Canadian nationals in prisons. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections manages people on sentences and orders at the direction of the Courts and the New Zealand Parole Board. Corrections does not determine whether a person is sentenced to prison or the length of their sentence.

People are not required to provide their citizenship or ethnicity when they enter prison, but they do have the opportunity to provide this information. When Corrections staff become aware of a person's citizenship or nationality, the information is recorded on the person's Corrections file, but not verified by Corrections staff.

When a prisoner identifies as a foreign national, or where staff believe that they could be, they are advised of their rights under the Corrections Act 2004. They are also advised of their rights under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations to have the diplomatic representative of their country advised of their imprisonment and to have access to a consular representative.

You requested:

The number of Canadian nationals in New Zealand prisons. I request this data is please broken down by gender, what charges they face, age range (eg 18-25, 26-30 etc), how long they've been on remand, or whether they are serving a sentence.

I also request this data for the last five years.

Between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2025, Corrections has managed nine people who have provided their nationality as being Canadian. These people, managed in prison in each financial year, is as follows:

Financial year	Self-identified Canadian nationals in prison
2020/21	4
2021/22	3
2022/23	5
2023/24	5
2024/25	7

Please note that a person is counted in each financial year in which they were in prison, therefore, if they spent multiple years in prison, a person is counted multiple times.

The following tables provide you with each person's age group upon entry to prison, their gender, and their index offence.

Age group at prison entry	Self-identified Canadian nationals in prison
25 - 29	1
30 - 39	3
40 - 49	4
60 and over	1

Gender	Self-identified Canadian nationals in prison
Male	8
Female	1

Index offence	Self-identified Canadian nationals in prison
Violence	4
Burglary	3
Sexual	1
Weapons	1
Drugs	1
Other	1

Please note, some of the people had more than one custodial period for different index offending and they are therefore counted more than one once in the breakdown by index offence.

Of the nine prisoners, eight were sentenced. The average and median days for those who have ended their remand periods is as follows:

	Average Days	Median days
Remand length	119	76

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 black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mason', is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.

Sean Mason
Commissioner Custodial Services