SOU-26-MIN-0056

Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Supplementary Amendments to the Corrections Regulations 2005

Portfolio **Corrections**

On 1 July 2026, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

1 **noted** that the financial implications of the regulation changes summarised in the paper under SOU-26-SUB-0056 will be managed within baselines;

2 **agreed** to amend the Corrections Regulations 2005 to:

2.1 enable unplanned use of drop pins with handcuffs for all prisoners;

2.2 update provisions relating to the approval of the privacy screens for at-risk prisoners and prisoners segregated under section 60(1)(a) and (b) of the Corrections Act 2004 to better enable flexibility in the process and operational feasibility for timing of recommendations and decisions by health and custodial staff;

2.3 require privacy screening to be provided for prisoners subject to a penalty of cell confinement unless infrastructure does not allow for it, to better reflect the March 2025 Cabinet decision to that effect [SOU-25-MIN-0018];

3 **noted** that Cabinet approved regulations in March 2025 to:

3.1 allow the use of CCTV in prisons where necessary and justified for health, safety, and security purposes, and as appropriate, intelligence purposes;

3.2 prohibit the use of CCTV cameras in certain locations, including medical examination rooms, Mothers with Babies' Units, feeding and bonding rooms, and in view of strip searches;

3.3 require for CCTV cameras in prisons to have privacy features to limit the recording and monitoring of hygiene areas where this is appropriate and aligns with safe custodial management;

3.4 delay the commencement of the CCTV approvals until the fifth anniversary of enactment, to provide Corrections with time to comply with the requirements;

[SOU-25-MIN-0018]

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4 **agreed** to amend the proposals agreed to by Cabinet in March 2025 [SOU-25-MIN-0018] to also prohibit the use of CCTV in cells, except where:

4.1 the cell is currently being used to accommodate a prisoner at risk of self-harm or subject to medical segregation; or

4.2 the cell is used primarily to house prisoners segregated under section 58(1)(a) or (b) of the Corrections Act 2004, the cell is currently housing a prisoner segregated under 58(1)(a) or (b), and the use of CCTV in that moment is required to mitigate an immediate risk to safety;

5 **agreed** to implement the previously delayed CCTV decisions in paragraph 3 with the amendment in paragraph 4;

6 **invited** the Minister of Corrections to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the decisions above;

7 **authorised** the Minister of Corrections to make further decisions on minor and technical matters, including any consequential amendments, in line with the decisions above.

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Present:
Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Karen Chhour

Officials present from:
Officials Committee for SOU