

09 July 2021

C134997

S 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe S 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 21 April 2021, requesting the amount of money was spent by Corrections per annum from 2010 to present on drug-related activity.

You have requested the following information:

- *How much money was spent by Corrections per annum from 2010 to present on drug-related activity (testing, rehabilitation, incarceration for drug-related offences etc)?*

Your question is answered in two parts: the first related to drug testing both within the prisons and within the community for people serving community-based sentences. The second part responds to your question about Corrections' expenditure on rehabilitation services offered to people in our care with identified Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) needs.

Please refer to Table One, which shows the amount Corrections has spent on AOD testing between 2009/10 and 2019/20 in prisons and in the community. Note these figures do not include custodial costs, medical costs, testing fees or consumables. These costs are absorbed within wider operational budgets. Please also note that prison-based testing costs fluctuate each year based on the number of tests completed at each site.

Prior to 1 July 2016, AOD testing was restricted to people in prison. A law change in 2016/17 meant Corrections could undertake AOD testing in the community. A community trial began on 16 May 2017, and legislation was enacted to allow for people on community-based sentences (and bail) to be tested. Previously, legislation had not provided clear authority to test people serving a community-based sentence/order, or those on bail, even when they were subject to an abstinence condition.

The trial concluded in May 2019 and funding was approved through Budget 19 to roll out testing nationwide. Testing continued while Corrections undertook a procurement and testing design for the national rollout, which was officially introduced in 2020/21.

Corrections is unable to provide you with accurate calculations regarding the amount of money spent on imprisonment for drug-related offences. In many cases, an individual imprisoned for drug offences will have also been convicted of other offending or breaches of existing sentences or orders, and drug offences would not have been the sole reason for their imprisonment. As such, the drug-related offending will generally have only been one factor in individuals' offending histories.

#### Rehabilitation Services:

Alcohol and Other Drug issues are common among people under Corrections' management. Sixty percent of people on community-based sentences have an identified alcohol or other drug need and 87 percent of people in prison have experienced an alcohol or other drug need over their lifetime.

Corrections' Addiction Services team was established under a restructure in mid-2020, to place it under Health Services. This shift has meant that substance harm is addressed under a health portfolio rather than being addressed through a criminogenic lens.

Corrections offers the following treatments to those people in our care with an identified AOD need:

- prison-based Drug Treatment Units (DTU),
- Intensive AOD Treatment Programmes (ITP) which includes aftercare, peer, and cultural support services,
- RecoverRing (a telehealth AOD support line) for people in prison and the community, and
- Corrections-funded community residential beds.

When people are on community-based sentences or orders, they can be referred to community AOD providers, or community residential AOD treatment programmes. People are referred to these programmes by their Probation Officer or Case Manager or can self-refer. Every person referred undertakes an assessment with a registered AOD clinician.

In recent years, we have increased our focus on mental health and addictions. A total of \$128.3 million over four years has been invested through Budget 2019 for mental health and AOD for people in prison or on community-based sentences and orders. This is reflective of the move away from viewing addiction solely as a criminogenic problem to that of being a health-based issue requiring specialist treatment.

Please refer to Table Two which shows the amount spent on AOD Rehabilitation Services between 2009/10 and 2019/20. The average daily cost to manage individuals in prison and people subject to community-based sentences and orders is calculated each year. The most recent figures are available on pages 162-163 of Corrections' 2019/20 Annual Report, here:

[https://www.corrections.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/42273/Annual\\_Report\\_2019\\_2020.pdf](https://www.corrections.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/42273/Annual_Report_2019_2020.pdf).

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. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PP' followed by a stylized, cursive name.

Juanita Ryan  
Deputy Chief Executive, Health

**Table One: Amount spent on Alcohol and Other Drug testing between 2009/10 and 2019/20.**

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>Prison</b>	\$59,011	\$81,305	\$64,778	\$86,888	\$100,208	\$294,443	\$164,499	\$219,449	\$227,088	\$144,713	\$269,925
<b>Community</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$227,016	\$1,011,621	\$1,998,911	\$1,978,569
<b>Total</b>	\$59,011	\$81,305	\$64,778	\$86,888	\$100,208	\$294,443	\$164,499	\$446,465	\$1,238,709	\$2,143,624	\$2,248,494

**Table Two: Amount spent on Alcohol and Other Drug Rehabilitation Services between 2009/10 and 2019/20.**

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>Prison</b>	\$3,038,364	\$4,004,032	\$4,768,869	\$5,042,768	\$4,986,280	\$5,248,264	\$5,658,620	\$6,390,691	\$6,842,693	\$7,140,402	\$9,468,611
<b>Community</b>	\$500,264	\$514,882	\$505,184	\$521,649	\$503,353	\$576,927	\$530,665	\$618,104	\$501,590	\$1,242,207	\$3,170,319
<b>Total</b>	\$3,538,628	\$4,518,915	\$5,274,054	\$5,564,417	\$5,489,632	\$5,825,190	\$6,189,285	\$7,008,795	\$7,344,283	\$8,382,610	\$12,638,931

- **Note:** All amounts are GST exclusive.