



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Changes to the Corrections Amendment Bill

Portfolio                      Corrections

On 25 March 2024, following reference from the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that:
  - 1.1      the Corrections Amendment Bill (the Bill) is before the Justice Committee;
  - 1.2      in February 2024, the Cabinet Legislation Committee approved an Amendment paper to enable the Department of Corrections to deliver programmes to all prisoners [LEG-24-MIN-0006];
  - 1.3      further changes to the Bill are recommended in response to public submissions, and to address operational refinements and minor drafting issues;
- 2        **agreed** to remove from the Bill the ability for prisoners to request a rehearing from Visiting Justices when a disciplinary hearing proceeded without them, and to instead require corrections officers to provide evidence that the prisoner refused to attend a hearing, and for a not-guilty plea to be entered on the prisoner's behalf;
- 3        **agreed** to expand the use of body imaging searches in the Bill to enable body imaging searches in prisons to be used as an alternative to rub-down searches at any time, in order to enable scanners to be introduced more widely in prisons;
- 4        **agreed** to clarify in the Bill that when a prisoner is segregated from the mainstream as at-risk of self-harm upon entry to prison that they do not need to be strip-searched in the specific circumstances where they have immediately prior to segregation been strip-searched, to improve efficiency and balance privacy with security;
- 5        **agreed** to require daily reviews of the segregation status of prisoners segregated from the mainstream as they are at risk of self-harm or segregated for medical oversight, to provide greater protections for prisoners who are separated from the mainstream prison population;
- 6        **agreed** to replace all references to "non-lethal weapons" in the Corrections Act 2004 with "less-lethal weapons," to make it clearer that all weapons can have lethal consequences;
- 7        **noted** that these decisions will be included in the Department of Corrections' departmental report for the Justice Committee;

- 8 **agreed** to include these changes in an Amendment Paper for Committee of the Whole House if the Justice Committee does not progress these changes;
- 9 **invited** the Minister of Corrections to submit a paper to the relevant Cabinet committee setting out potential options to refine the current Treaty of Waitangi provisions in the Bill.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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