


03 July 2024

C182995



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 5 June 2024 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about the use of cell confinement as a punishment in prisons. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

*In your previous response you stated that people are never placed in segregation as a form of punishment. Could you confirm if prisoners can be confined to their own cell as punishment?*

If a prisoner commits an offence, they may be charged with a misconduct. The internal misconduct system ensures that prisoners who are subject to disciplinary action have their charges heard by a hearing adjudicator or by a Visiting Justice in accordance with legislation. If a prisoner is found guilty of non-compliance with the rules and regulations of the prison, they are disciplined in a fair, just and humane manner. If the prisoner pleads or is found guilty, the hearing adjudicator or Visiting Justice determines the appropriate sanction, which can include loss of privileges, forfeiture of earnings, or cell confinement.

Further information regarding prisoners on cell confinement is contained within the Prison Operations Manual, and can be found on our website at [https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy\\_and\\_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Public-RL/MC.01.Sch.02-schedule-of-penalties](https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Public-RL/MC.01.Sch.02-schedule-of-penalties)

*If so could I please request the stats for the numbers of prisoners this applies to?*

Please see the below table which shows the number of unique prisoners who were sanctioned with cell confinement since 2013/14, broken down by financial year. If a prisoner was confined to their cell more than once in a year, they will only be presented once in this table for each financial year.

Financial year	Offenders
2013-2014	2,766
2014-2015	2,503
2015-2016	2,717
2016-2017	3,030
2017-2018	3,134
2018-2019	2,850
2019-2020	2,743
2020-2021	2,255
2021-2022	1,954
2022-2023	2,176
2023-2024*	2,176

\*As at 31 May 2024

Caution is urged when comparing time periods to each other. The prison population fluctuates daily and can vary significantly across years.

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



Leigh Marsh  
National Commissioner