



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

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Corrections (Management of Prisoners, and Prisoners' Property) Amendment Bill: Additional Amendments

Portfolio Corrections

On 24 June 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Corrections (Management of Prisoners, and Prisoners' Property) Amendment Bill (the Bill) holds a category 3 priority on the 2026 Legislation Programme (a priority to be passed before the 2026 General Election), and received its first reading on 28 April 2026;
- 2 **agreed** to amend the Corrections Act 2004 (the Act) to allow the physical exercise minimum entitlement to be denied where there are reasonable grounds to believe there is a present risk to prison security or the safety of any person;
- 3 **agreed** to amend the Act to allow the physical exercise minimum entitlement to be denied for prisoners with prolonged attendance at a medical appointment or the health centre, and where it is not reasonably practicable to provide one hour of exercise on that day;
- 4 **agreed** to amend the Act to allow the physical exercise minimum entitlement to be denied for inter-prison transfers, where it is not reasonably practicable to provide one hour of exercise on that day;
- 5 **agreed** to amend the Act to require the Department of Corrections to record, retain, monitor, and analyse the use of all physical exercise minimum entitlement exceptions across the prison network;
- 6 **agreed** to amend the Act to clarify that security features in exercise yards used for the daily physical exercise entitlement (including, but not limited to security bars, mesh, and other roofing features) do not prevent access to open air;
- 7 **agreed** to amend the Act to clarify that the Department of Corrections can provide a designated-management prisoner, or a prisoner who has been segregated for more than 14 days, with the physical exercise entitlement in a cell-adjacent yard, provided they receive regular opportunities to exercise in a larger exercise yard;
- 8 **agreed** to amend the Act to be clear that the Department of Corrections does not need to provide prisoners who have a cell-adjacent yard with the opportunity to use a larger yard for physical exercise if doing so is likely to impact the prisoner's health or safety or the health or safety of another person, or the prisoner is separated from the prison population for disciplinary reasons;

- 9 **agreed** to amend the Act to modernise the outgoing telephone call minimum entitlement to include audio technology that enables other forms of effective live communication;
- 10 **agreed** to amend the Act to exclude security classification requirements from applying to all designated-management prisoners;
- 11 **agreed** that the Minister of Corrections will request that the Justice Committee consider the above amendments to the Act through the Bill;
- 12 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 13 **noted** that costs relating to the above decisions will be met from within the existing Vote Corrections baseline.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Cameron Brewer
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ECO