



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Corrections (Management of Prisoners, and Prisoners' Property) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio Corrections

On 29 January 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Minister of Corrections has sought a category three priority on the 2026 Legislation Programme (a priority to be passed before the 2026 General Election) for the Corrections (Management of Prisoners, and Prisoners' Property) Amendment Bill (the Bill);
- 2 **noted** that the Bill will amend the Corrections Act 2004 and the Corrections Regulations 2005 to establish a clearer statutory basis for the safe, lawful, and humane management of designated-management prisoners who are subject to a higher level of custodial management;
- 3 **noted** that the Bill will introduce new powers relating to prisoner segregation and wellbeing, requirements relating to the destruction of prisoner property, and updates to prisoner trust account provisions;
- 4 **noted** that in August 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU) agreed to extend the scope of the Bill to better enable the chief executive or prison manager to limit the illicit use of prisoner trust accounts [SOU-25-MIN-0110];
- 5 **agreed** to refine SOU's decision that if a prisoner is removed from, and then returned to, segregation within a period of five days, this will be treated as a continuation of the same segregation direction [SOU-25-MIN-0070], so that it only applies to prisoners segregated to protect security, good order, or safety under section 58 or protective custody through section 59(1)(b) of the Corrections Act 2004;
- 6 **agreed** to modify SOU's previous decision [SOU-25-MIN-0070] by limiting the minimum entitlement of at least two hours of outgoing telephone calls each week to designated-management prisoners only and not extending this to prisoners segregated for 90 days or more;
- 7 **rescinded** SOU's decision to provide designated-management prisoners and prisoners who have been segregated for 90 days or more under section 58 and section 59(1)(b) of the Corrections Act 2004 with an additional hour of out-of-cell time per day to be used for their hobbies, subject to prison safety [SOU-25-MIN-0070];

- 8 **noted** that in June 2025, SOU authorised the Minister of Corrections to make further decisions on minor and technical matters, including any consequential amendments, in line with the policy decisions agreed by Cabinet [SOU-25-MIN-0070];
- 9 **noted** that the Minister of Corrections used this authorisation to make the following decisions in the Bill:
- 9.1 adopting more neutral and operational language by replacing the term ‘extreme threat prisoners’ with ‘designated-management prisoners’;
 - 9.2 resolving incorrect cross-references in sections 102(2) and 171(2) of the Act, following changes made by the Corrections Amendment Act 2024;
 - 9.3 making a technical amendment to the Corrections Regulations 2005 relating to the use of risk assessments for remand prisoners to give better effect to SOU’s policy intent in March 2025 to manage remand prisoners in accordance with their risk assessment only where it is practicable to do so [SOU-25-SUB-0018];
 - 9.4 making technical amendments to the Corrections Regulations 2005 to clarify when certain provisions apply to prisoners at-risk of self-harm, as opposed to prisoners segregated under different grounds;
- 10 **approved** the Corrections (Management of Prisoners, and Prisoners’ Property) Amendment Bill [PCO 26174/1.24] for introduction;
- 11 **agreed** that the Bill be introduced in February 2026;
- 12 **agreed** that the Government propose that the Bill be:
- 12.1 referred to the Justice Committee for consideration;
 - 12.2 enacted this parliamentary term.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon James Meger
Jamie Arbuckle MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG