

30 October 2020

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Proactive release of information relating to costs associated with the sentencing of the Christchurch terrorist

The sentencing of the Christchurch terrorist was a significant operation for Corrections in terms of ensuring that he was managed safely and securely during his sentencing. Corrections played a key role as part of a multi-agency operation alongside the Ministry of Justice and Police.

Corrections was the lead agency in respect of:

- Ensuring the security and safety of the terrorist and the staff (from both Corrections and other agencies) who were responsible for managing him during this period; and
- Managing the security operation involved in escorting the terrorist from Auckland to Christchurch, and back again.

As at 8 October 2020, Corrections had incurred a total cost of \$150,704.30 for transporting the prisoner to Christchurch and back for his sentencing hearing. This figure is comprised of personnel costs (including overtime and allowances), accommodation for staff, car hire and petrol, and other costs relating to operationally sensitive matters, which we are declining to detail for security reasons.

Further, the above cost does not include flight costs. There has been no cost to Corrections for the use of the Air Force Hercules. The Ministry of Defence has already released information about costs they incurred for those flights.

The above represents the total cost of this operation to Corrections' as at 8 October 2020. However, Corrections may be provided further invoices to process in the future. For example, there is one likely further significant cost to Corrections, which is the cancellation fee for the motel used to accommodate staff. The fee was incurred as a result of the prisoner's trial being scheduled and then cancelled as a result of his guilty plea, resulting in amendments to the motel booking. The amount of this fee is in dispute, meaning Corrections does not currently have a figure for this cost.

Corrections is unable to provide a further breakdown of these costs, as this information is both operationally and commercially sensitive.

Ngā mihi nui



Rachel Leota
National Commissioner