

21 May 2026

C213518

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 21 April 2026 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa (Corrections), requesting information about Visiting Justices at Waikeria Prison. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

A Visiting Justice is an independent statutory appointee, typically a Justice of the Peace, barrister or solicitor. They are authorised by the Governor-General under section 19(2) of the Corrections Act 2004 to oversee aspects of prison management, ensure the humane treatment of inmates and adjudicate serious disciplinary matters. They serve as an independent check on the Corrections system, visiting prisons regularly to investigate concerns and hear cases regarding inmate conduct.

Visiting Justices are appointed to preside over any Visiting Justice hearing throughout the country, depending on demand. They are added to a sitting roster prepared in consultation with both Corrections and the Ministry of Justice.

You have requested:

“Please can you provide me with the dates that hearings before the Visiting Justice have been held at Waikeria Prison between the dates of 1 January 2026 and 21 April 2026.”

I have been advised that there were twelve Visiting Justice hearings at Waikeria Prison between 1 January 2026 and 21 April 2026 inclusive. These occurred on the following dates:

- 13, 20 and 27 January 2026
- 3 and 24 February 2026
- 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 March 2026
- 14 and 21 April 2026

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SM', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sean Mason
Commissioner Custodial Services