

30 July 2021

C138166

S 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe S 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 3 July 2021, requesting information about instructions or pamphlets given to people in prison about media engagement. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

All pamphlets, notes, flyers and copies of information and instructions provided to prisoners in the past two years regarding speaking to and engaging with media. With this could I please have the date the information was distributed and where it was distributed.

Corrections does not proactively provide information or instructions to people in prison about speaking with or engaging the media. Therefore, your request is declined in accordance with the OIA section 18(e), as the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to located it, cannot be found.

People in prison do not seek permission from Corrections to be interviewed by media. Rather, there is a prescribed process for members of media organisations to follow if they are seeking to film, photograph or interview a specific prisoner.

All interviews with people in prison are subject to approval by the Chief Executive or his delegate, as outlined under sections 108 and 109 of the Corrections Regulations 2005. It is worth noting that a requirement for regulation 109(2) of the Corrections Regulations 2005 is that the individual understands the nature and purpose of the filming, interviewing, photographing, recording or videotaping concerned and the possible consequences to them and other people with the publication or broadcasting of the film, interview, photograph, recording, transcript or video-tape concerned.

In order to meet this requirement, Corrections staff (usually a Principal Corrections Officer) will sit down with the person in prison to discuss this and gain their informed consent. Staff endeavour to answer all questions the person has and seek guidance from the National Media Team on any questions they cannot answer. It is expected

that staff do not provide their view on whether or not the person in prison should consent, but we understand they may be asked for their opinion.

The process for media to request to film, photograph or interview a prisoner is outlined in full on Corrections' website:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/news/information_for_the_media/make_a_request

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 trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Richard Waggott
Deputy Chief Executive
People and Capability