

20 March 2024

C178252



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 14 February 2024 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting various statistics regarding releases, deportees and recidivism. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

- 1. How many people were released from New Zealand prisons in each calendar year from 2014-2023*

Corrections does not decide who is in prison and who is in the community – this is a matter for the Courts and New Zealand Parole Board. The following table shows the number of people released from prison to the community at the end of a prison sentence (does not include release on bail).

Financial year	Releases
2013/14	7,326
2014/15	7,424
2015/16	7,808
2016/17	8,421
2017/18	8,312
2018/19	7,904
2019/20	7,617
2020/21	6,529
2021/22	5,644
2022/23	5,279

Please note, if a person completes a sentence but remains on remand for a subsequent offence (and is therefore not released to the community), they are not counted in this table. Further, if a person is released to the community from more than one distinct period of imprisonment (not at the same time), they are counted multiple times in this table.

2. *How many people previously deported from Australia under Section 501 or 116 of the Migration Act were imprisoned in New Zealand in each calendar year from 2014-2023*

Corrections does not determine who is subject to a Returning Offender Order (ROO), this decision is made by the Courts. The Returning Offenders Returning Offenders (Management and Information) Act 2015 came into effect in December 2015. Under this Act, a person can be subject to a returning offender order which requires them to be managed by Corrections on their return. Where a person is subject to an order, Corrections has a record of their status if they are subsequently imprisoned. However, we do not hold records of those people who have been deported but are not subject to a returning offender order as they are not under Corrections' management. This information is likely held by the New Zealand Police.

The total number of people who are or have been subject to a ROO has increased since the legislation came into effect, from 195 people in 2015/16 to 1,997 in 2022. The following table shows the total number of aggregate prison sentence starts where the person has previously been subject to a returning offender order in the community. Data is provided from 2015/16 onwards as this is when the legislation came into effect.

Financial year	Prison sentence starts
2015/16	1
2016/17	24
2017/18	40
2018/19	64
2019/20	102
2020/21	92
2021/22	80
2022/23	98

Please note, if a person starts more than one distinct aggregate prison sentence, they are counted multiple times in this table.

3. *Recidivism rates each calendar year from 2014-2023*

Corrections routinely reports on recidivism rates via the Recidivism Indices measure, published in our Annual Report. For the most recent data please refer to page 204 – 207 of our [2022/23 Annual Report](#).

4. *Recidivism rates of prisoners previously deported from Australia under Section 501 or 116 of the Migration Act were imprisoned in New Zealand in each calendar year from 2014-2023*

As noted in response to question two, we only hold records of a person's deportation from Australia if a returning offender order was imposed.

The following table shows calculated reoffending and reimprisonment rates for people who were subject to a returning offender order and were then imprisoned.

Financial year	Total offenders	Total offenders released long enough	Percent Reimprisoned	Percent Reoffended
2015/16	1	1	0.0%	0.0%
2016/17	24	24	25.0%	50.0%
2017/18	40	40	35.0%	45.0%
2018/19	64	61	36.1%	47.5%
2019/20	102	94	27.7%	44.7%
2020/21	92	86	16.3%	30.2%
2021/22	80	63	38.1%	57.1%
2022/23	98	12	25.0%	25.0%

Please note, not everyone from question two (repeated in the total offenders column in this table) can be assessed using the recidivism calculations as the necessary follow up period has not passed since their release, or they have not yet been released.

Furthermore, these rates cannot be compared with the recidivism rates in question three. This is due to the low volumes and compositional differences between cohort groups and the general prison population.

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. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response 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



Leigh Marsh
National Commissioner