

18 September 2025

C202815

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 28 August 2025 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about Guiding Release. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As we advised in our previous response dated 13 June 2025 (our ref. C196890) and 8 July 2025 (our ref. C199111), public safety is our top priority during any Guiding Release activity. Every person is strictly vetted prior to undertaking Guiding Release and can be equipped with an electronic monitoring anklet when leaving the prison to attend an activity.

You requested:

I would like to know the total number of guided releases conducted for MPI - minimum period of imprisonment inmates (Life Sentenced Inmates with non-parole periods) that are yet to attend their first parole hearing, at each prison over the past 12 months. Including number of applied, approved and declined statistics.

In the past 12 months, there has been one application approved for Guiding Release, for an individual subject to a minimum period of imprisonment who had yet to attend their first Parole Hearing. The individual was housed at Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility. There was only the one application made, as such there is no further data for applications applied for and their outcome.

I would also like to know of those MPI inmates yet to attend their first parole hearing, approved statistics regarding reasons for GR.

- Recognise or maintain a family relationship or a friendship statistics,
- Prepare for the possibility of release statistics,
- Visiting the home/accomodation of where they plan to parole to statistics,
- Release to Work (off prison sites) statistics,
- A breakdown of what other approved applications made statistics.

The approved Guiding Release identified above was to undertake an activity to support the rehabilitative or reintegrative needs of the prisoner.

I would also like to include in those statistics (not including medical GR's) length of GR per approved per reasons, referring to e.g above. For example overnight stays, weekend stays, 12hr or 24hr.

Example: 48hr home visit for maintaining family connection at accommodation set to parole etc etc.

The approved Guiding Release identified above was for three hours.

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



Leigh Marsh
Commissioner Custodial Services