

30 January 2023

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 November 2022 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about prison statistics. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

I assume this data refers only to sentenced prisoners? Or does it include remand prisoners? If remand prisoners are included I assume the stat captures the most serious offence they have been charged with?

From March 2016 onwards, 'Prison population by offence type' data has included all sentenced and remand prisoners who are onsite. The most serious offences displayed are the most serious offence they were charged with on the reporting date.

Prior to December 2017 'Dishonesty' was a large grouping - about 20%.

- *In December 2017 I assume this was split into Burglary (12.5%) and Dishonesty (6.1%)? (is this correct)*
- *In December 2020 the dishonesty category was removed and appears to have been replaced by Robbery/Extortion, Theft, and Fraud/Deception? (Is this correct)*
- *If I was to create a longer-term comparison would it be correct to just add up Burglary, Robbery/Extortion, Theft, and Fraud/Deception?*

The change in December 2017 resulted from Corrections changing from our own system for grouping offences to using groupings similar to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC), but at a higher level. As this was a complete change in system, offence types were not directly split or mapped from the old system to the new system. Therefore, it is not possible to directly compare these statistics before and after December 2017.

In December 2020 we began using the standardized ANZSOC groupings. The table below shows how previous offence groups were mapped to the current ones.

Offence groups December 2017 – September 2020	Offence groups December 2020 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burglary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlawful Entry with Intent/Burglary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dishonesty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft • Fraud/Deception

Are you able to provide the underlying data for each of the quarterly updates from the last ten years? I can pull what I need from the website - but if there was a dataset somewhere that would make this faster and less-error prone that would be great.

Please find the underlying data attached as a spreadsheet. As previously noted, while we have provided ten years of data as you requested, data from before and after December 2017 cannot be accurately compared. Please also note that the offence type data up to and including September 2015 only includes sentenced prisoners.

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



Matt Huddleston
 Manager Ministerial Services (acting)
 People and Capability