Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Corrections Amendment Regulations 2026

Portfolio **Corrections**

On 17 September 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

1 **noted** that the financial implications of the regulation changes summarised in the paper under LEG-26-SUB-0202 will be managed within baselines;

2 **noted** that in July 2026, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee agreed to amend the Corrections Regulations 2005 (the Regulations) to:

2.1 enable unplanned use of drop pins with handcuffs for all prisoners;

2.2 update provisions relating to the approval of the privacy screens for at-risk prisoners and prisoners segregated under section 60(1)(a) and (b) of the Corrections Act 2004 (the Act) to better enable flexibility in the process and operational feasibility for timing of recommendations and decisions by health and custodial staff;

2.3 require privacy screening to be provided for prisoners subject to a penalty of cell confinement unless infrastructure does not allow for it, to better reflect the March 2025 Cabinet decision to that effect [SOU-25-MIN-0018];

2.4 amend the CCTV proposals agreed to by Cabinet in March 2025 [SOU-25-MIN-0018] to also prohibit the use of CCTV in cells, except where:

2.4.1 the cell is currently being used to accommodate a prisoner at risk of self-harm or subject to medical segregation; or

2.4.2 the cell is used primarily to house prisoners segregated under section 58(1)(a) or (b) of the Corrections Act 2004, the cell is currently housing a prisoner segregated under 58(1)(a) or (b), and the use of CCTV in that moment is required to mitigate an immediate risk to safety;

2.5 implement the previously delayed CCTV recommendations agreed by Cabinet in March 2025 (with the amendments in paragraph 2.4 above), which were:

2.5.1 allowing the use of CCTV in prisons where necessary and justified for health, safety, and security purposes, and as appropriate, intelligence purposes;

2.5.2 prohibiting the use of CCTV cameras in certain locations, including medical examination rooms, Mothers with Babies' Units, feeding and bonding rooms, and in view of strip searches;

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2.5.3 requiring for CCTV cameras in prisons to have privacy features to limit the recording and monitoring of hygiene areas where this is appropriate and aligns with safe custodial management; and

2.5.4 delaying the commencement of the CCTV approvals until the fifth anniversary of enactment, to provide Corrections with time to comply with the requirements;

[SOU-26-MIN-0056]

3 **agreed**, in addition to paragraph 2.1 above, to amend the Regulations to specify that it is the prison manager who must approve planned use of drop pins for prisoners at risk of self-harm or segregated under sections 58 or 60(1)(b) of the Act;

4 **noted** that paragraph 2.2 above only applies to at-risk prisoners or those segregated for mental health reasons under section 60(1)(b) of the Act and not also prisoners segregated for physical health under 60(1)(a) of the Act;

5 **agreed** to clarify paragraph 2.2 above by amending the Regulations to require the prison manager to consult with the health centre manager as to any clinical considerations regarding the provision of privacy screening to a prisoner who is at risk of self-harm or segregated for mental health reasons;

6 **agreed** to clarify paragraph 2.2 above by amending the Regulations so that the prison manager must make a decision about whether it is 'in accordance with safe custodial practice', having regard for the prisoner's 'dignity and welfare', to place a prisoner who is at risk of self-harm or segregated for mental health reasons in a cell with a privacy screen;

7 **noted** that if the prison manager remakes their decision on whether to provide the privacy screen, they must consult the health centre manager again;

8 **noted** that Parliamentary Counsel may make technical amendments to the draft Corrections Amendment Regulations between the lodgement of the paper under LEG-26-SUB-0202 and Cabinet approval;

9 **authorised** the submission of the Corrections Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 29201/6.0] to the Executive Council.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Cameron Brewer
Hon Mike Butterick
Todd Stephenson MP

Officials present from:
Officials Committee for LEG

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