

13 August 2020

C123213

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Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 17 June 2020, requesting various information about prison population statistics, Corrections' High Impact Innovation (HIIP) team and the electronically monitored (EM) Bail population. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

I note that we previously advised we needed to extend the timeframe of our response to you in accordance with section 15 of the OIA. Thank you for your subsequent email advising that you required this information more urgently. We have endeavoured to get this information to you as soon as possible.

You requested:

- *The number of sentenced prisoners by ethnicity at the end of each quarter, broken down by ethnicity, since September 2017 quarter*

Please see the below table for the requested information. It is important to note that individuals in Corrections' custody are not required to report their ethnicity. Rather, ethnicity is self-reported. Also note that this data does not include prisoners on off-site transfer or in police custody. As such, it may differ from other statistics we have published.

Quarter ending	Maori	European	Pacific	Other	Not recorded
30 September 2017	3,627	2,489	868	363	96
31 December 2017	3,628	2,467	819	375	113
31 March 2018	3,528	2,417	857	361	123
30 June 2018	3,470	2,385	850	358	140
30 September 2018	3,478	2,299	806	350	153
31 December 2018	3,326	2,213	787	335	138
31 March 2019	3,234	2,136	769	312	111
30 June 2019	3,178	2,125	771	321	60
30 September 2019	3,154	2,093	779	339	14
31 December 2019	3,073	2,059	740	345	9
31 March 2020	3,036	2,007	692	321	8
30 June 2020	2,990	1,974	688	313	12

Further to the above information, you may be interested to know that Corrections proactively releases various information regarding prisoner population statistics. This information is uploaded quarterly and is publicly available on our website at: www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/research_and_statistics/quarterly_prison_statistics

- *The number of prisoners granted bail and parole by quarter since September 2017, broken down by ethnicity*

Corrections can provide statistics regarding Electronically Monitored (EM) Bail, which is managed by Corrections and New Zealand Police under a shared service model, however Corrections does not hold data relating to people granted bail without electronic monitoring, which is managed solely by New Zealand Police.

Please see the below tables for the requested information. It is important to note that the number of defendants subject to EM Bail has increased significantly since 2017/18. Decisions about who is granted EM Bail are made by a Judge in court. Further to note, Corrections does not decide who is released on Parole, as this is a decision for the New Zealand Parole Board. As mentioned above, ethnicity is self-reported.

	EM Bail				
Quarter ending	Maori	European	Pacific	Other	Not recorded
31 December 2017	226	112	47	15	22
31 March 2018	203	112	48	20	28
30 June 2018	264	143	60	19	40
30 September 2018	256	134	54	15	35
31 December 2018	259	134	56	13	36
31 March 2019	291	144	67	24	48
30 June 2019	340	169	90	22	38
30 September 2019	328	169	73	35	46
31 December 2019	382	170	92	23	59
31 March 2020	323	169	93	27	62
30 June 2020	447	219	104	29	42

	Parole				
Quarter ending	Maori	European	Pacific	Other	Not recorded
31 December 2017	223	166	58	21	1
31 March 2018	217	181	48	31	0
30 June 2018	232	159	58	25	0
30 September 2018	270	201	89	34	0
31 December 2018	297	228	71	42	1
31 March 2019	257	228	60	28	2
30 June 2019	294	204	70	29	3
30 September 2019	295	209	72	30	0
31 December 2019	289	206	74	24	0

31 March 2020	292	202	67	40	1
30 June 2020	253	168	46	20	0

- *The 2018/19 High Impact Innovation Programme results/year in review (should be the updated/corresponding report to [this one](#))*

I am advised that a report corresponding to the report you provided was not developed for 2018/19. As such, this part of your request is declined pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

- *Any 2019/2020 progress reports on the HIIP*

Please find attached as Appendix One reports which have been identified as within the scope of your request. The reports are the most recent performance dashboards for three of the High Impact Innovation Programme's key initiatives which are:

- **Bail Support Services** – This initiative supports people who are appearing in court to put forward robust and timely bail proposals, enabling them to be bailed to the community if and when this is a safe option. Defendants can opt into the service and are provided with support to address their social needs and thrive while on bail. The service encourages individuals to be prosocial and productive with their time on bail.
- **Parole Ready** – This initiative supports individuals appearing before the New Zealand Parole Board to make robust applications for release. People can be declined parole for many reasons, often a simple outstanding task or an insufficient release plan. Parole Ready addresses these barriers to parole and helps people in custody to progress through their rehabilitative pathways as quickly as possible. This means that time in custody is meaningful and people are better prepared for release.
- **Sentencing Ready** – This initiative acts as a conduit between parties that contribute to sentencing hearings (e.g. Probation, Defence Counsel, Ministry of Justice). The team ensures that these parties provide information, so that sentencing can proceed at the earliest possible scheduled hearing. The initiative benefits all involved in the criminal justice process, with the aim to free up court time. It reduces exposure to the justice system for victims and defendants, allowing them to get on with their lives.

Some of the data from these reports represents a snapshot in time and some sections provide data over the 2019/20 year.

- *The EM Bail population at last count*

As at 10 August, the EM Bail population was 1,406.

- *The number of bed saving days the remand triage initiative saved in 2018/19, and 2019/2020, to current*

The 'Remand Triage Initiative' was established in January 2018. Under this initiative, Police prosecutors would analyse files of defendants remanded into custody, identify cases that required further evidence gathering or amendments and prioritise cases that could be resolved with fewer court appearances. The prosecutors would then engage with defence council to prepare defendants for their first hearings. The goal was to expedite the court process and reduce the length of time that defendants were remanded in custody awaiting an outcome for their case.

Funding for Remand Triage ended in August 2019 and the initiative has since been rescoped and is now named Targeted Case Progression. The new service expands on Remand Triage, preventing delays and unnecessary court appearances, benefiting defendants, courts and prisons. It also aims to reduce exposure to the justice system for victims, witnesses and defendants.

Below are the custody day savings for Remand Triage for the periods requested. Reporting requirements for the new Targeted Case Progression initiative are being determined and custody day savings data is unavailable. As such we are only able to provide this information for 2019/20 as at 31 August 2019.

- 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019: 25,475 custody days
- 1 July 2019 – 31 August 2019: 2,574 custody days

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these 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.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Richard Waggott
Deputy Chief Executive

Parole Ready Dashboard

May 2020

(Data accurate as at 12 May 2020)

Journey Map:



Case Study

He Kete Oranga o te Mana Wāhine

On 26 March COVID-19 level four lockdown restrictions were introduced. Several days later two wāhine from Christchurch Womens Prison who had confirmed placements at He Kete Oranga o te Mana Wāhine appeared before the board having completed all identified programmes and with a clear and robust release proposal to He Kete o te Mana Wāhine. Unfortunately, as a result of the level 4 COVID-19 restrictions and the facilities pandemic plan, admissions to the He Kete residential facility were no longer able to be progressed. This resulted in the immediate loss of the overall release proposal for both wāhine and subsequently Parole was revoked and declined. Two weeks later, after working with the programme provider and confirming admissions could safely be progressed, Section 26 applications were completed and submitted to the Board along with a supporting memo from the programme provider. The outcome of both applications was that release on Parole was granted for both wāhine who were safely released on Parole and admitted into the He Kete residence to start their journey towards lasting change.

Benefits Reporting

Since Parole Ready began in May 2018

186

Parole Ready has supported 186 prisoners achieve Parole.

28,472

Custody days saved achieving Parole earlier.

477

There are currently 477 prisoners being supported by the Parole Ready team.

The Current Financial YTD Approved Parole Achievement Rate is 27.7% which is 5.3% down from last year. We will start to see this number drop as the lockdown continues and the NZPB continue to work via teleconference/AVL. With Level 2 commencing we will see programmes revitalised slowly and they will continue. This will be the final PR dashboard showing the benefits as the project has been running for two years and the bed nights saved have been substantial. **Top performing prison overall is ARWCF with a parole achievement rate of 50%**

Revocations

31

March/ April Total

Over the past two months, during the covid-19 lockdown, there were 31 parole decisions that were approved and then subsequently revoked. 29 of these revocations were covid related; 19 were due to accommodation providers being unable to take new clients and 10 were deportees for whom overseas flights were unable to be secured. While some have now been granted parole, the Parole Ready Senior Advisors will work with case managers to find alternative solutions for those who will be again seeking parole to support a successful release.

29

COVID related

2

Non COVID related

19

Loss of accommodation

2

Behaviour/ Misconducts

10

Deportee (issues with flights)

Parole Decline Reasons

For March/April there were 1276 recorded declined outcomes.

49%

Treatment incomplete (presently waitlisted for treatment) 268

37%

Lack of accommodation 204

36%

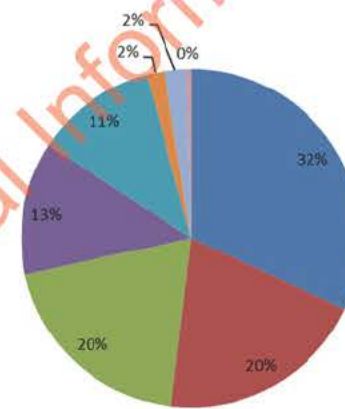
Insufficient release proposal 196

The Parole Ready Senior Advisors have been continuing to review all declined hearings over March and April and have been assisting sites by updating IOMS with the declined reasons. The top 3 reasons remain unchanged though the lockdown as well and we will continue to monitor the numbers to see how things may have changed. As programmes start back up again we should see that percentage drop slightly as it has had a sudden spike due to the pausing of programmes.

NZPB Recommended Activities

Specified Activity

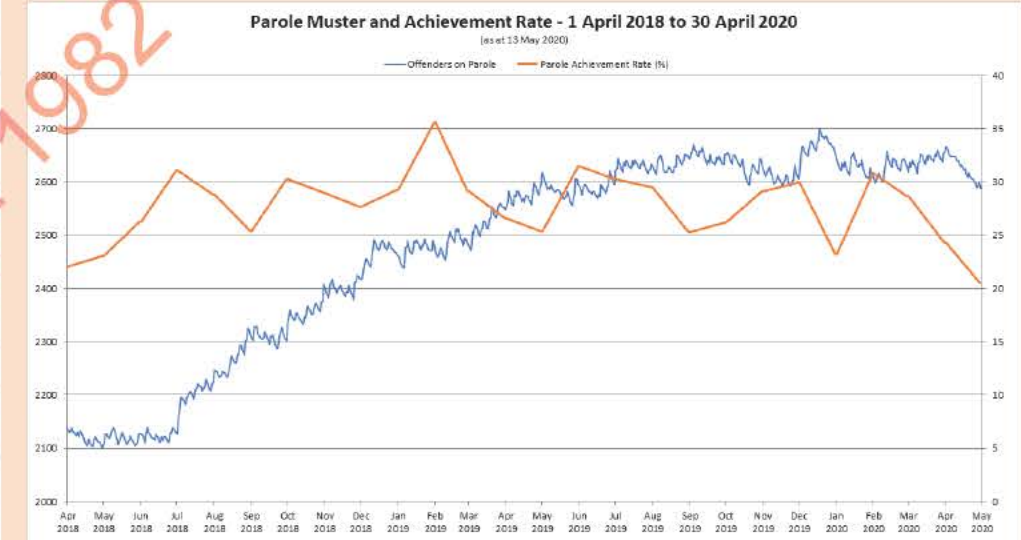
- Sex Offender Programme
- AOD
- Psychs
- STURP
- MIRP/SRP/MTP/Kowhiritanga
- Reintegrative Activities
- Other Treatment
- Other Activities



	Northern	Central	L North	Southern
Specified activities (#)	93	51	51	40
TOTAL in custody				
S26 Apps Total (Fin YTD)	48	46	51	38
S26 Apps Approved (Fin YTD)	19 (39.6%)	19 (41.3%)	27 (52.9%)	15 (39.5%)

The Parole Ready Senior Advisors have been keeping a good track of these, many of which have been completed. They continue to work with sites to progress the people in our care to complete the activity specified by the NZPB as a priority and then to make S26 applications to bring their next hearing forward where appropriate. It remains clear from the graph that the Sex Offender Programmes remain by far the most recommended by the NZPB that need to be completed to gain parole. Coupled with the fact that the leading reason for parole to be declined is "Treatment incomplete" this is an area that requires more focus.

Trends



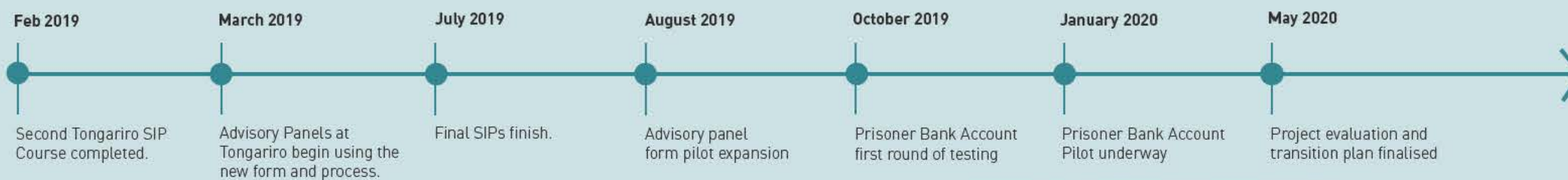
Over the past month the release rate has dropped down to almost 20% which is the lowest since the Parole Ready work began. Covid-19 has had significant impact on the way prisons and the parole board have functioned over this period. Release rates are likely to take some months to recover given the cessation of rehabilitative programmes and reintegrative activities, which are only now beginning to recommence as we enter Alert Level 2. Over the past two months we have also seen a high number of Parole revocations as further enquiries have needed to be carried out to ensure release proposals are sufficient in a Covid-19 environment. While the release rate has slowed, the long serving muster has continued to track downwards, hitting the lowest point in more than five years (and is more than 1000 less than the same time two years ago when it peaked at 6485). Unfortunately this reduction is not all about positive release stories as there has been a reduction of inflow into sentenced custody due to the slowing of Court activity, which has been exacerbated over the past two months.

With the Parole Ready initiative now moving into the evaluation phase, ongoing operational reporting will cease as the formal closure reports are prepared.

COVID 19 Response

The Parole Ready team have been busy supporting the wider business by facilitating prisoner contact between probation officers, lawyers and the men and women in our care. As at May 8th we have seen over 350 requests facilitated nationally over a 4 week period connecting those in our care with their lawyers and probation officers to ensure instructions have been made and PAC reports and EM Bail interviews have been carried out. This along with many requests being over AVL/Jabber has seen court proceedings continue and there have been less delays in sentencing. We have seen significant system improvements in the short time this initiative has been operating.

Timeline:



Bail Support Services (BSS) Dashboard

June 2020

[Data accurate as at 17 June 2020]

Journey Map:



Community Support

153

Across all four BSS pilot sites we are currently supporting 153 defendants.

40 - Manukau

23 - Christchurch

85 - Wellington

5 - Kaitia



Family Harm Pilot

Manukau BSS are progressing with plans to implement a pilot in the family harm Court. The pilot aims to support 50 defendants with alleged family harm charges through the Court. The bail support officer will act as a navigator for the defendant as they progress through the Court, connecting them with different treatment and support services.

This initiative is looking to tailor the support provided by the BSS to a family violence Court setting and is being run in partnership with sector partners with the intention of the evaluation being completed by the Evidence Based Policing Team (arranged through the Auckland JSLB). This pilot is an excellent opportunity to leverage off relationships built during the Covid-19 period which saw the BSS working closely with a range of government agencies and NGO's to support defendants struggling with the confines of lockdown.

This pilot in the family harm Court will largely be in partnership with Court, Police and counsel alongside our NGO providers. There is a planning day scheduled for later this month and DCJ Skellern (the Court's new presiding Judge) will also be in attendance.



He Kete Oranga o te Mana Wāhine

Launched June 2019

22

Total number of residents to date



9 wāhine currently residing at the address.



14 wāhine currently in aftercare

Karen successfully graduated the programme in March 2020 and then moved into temporary accommodation with the Support of Pathways Trust. In June she successfully obtained her own address through Kaianga Ora, moving in with her teenage son. She has been involved in peer support interviews at Odyssey House. She goes out to He Kete fortnightly to share her personal story with the wāhine, especially what she's found helpful and difficult while completing the programme. He Kete are looking to employ a Consumer Representative. Karen has applied and will be considered as part of the upcoming process. This is a huge step for Karen who is succeeding in the community and standing in her mana.



Bail App

Overall 468 people have registered to use the app

127

The current number of registered users is 127



Benefits Reporting

June 2018 - Present

7260

Days saved achieving bail faster.

1336

There are 1336 cases currently in progress.

26.8

Average days to bail: baseline

vs.

17.2

Average days to bail: BSS

45%

Time spent by non-BSS group in custody.

vs.

34.3%

Time spent by BSS defendants in custody



Wellington Bail House - Puāwai

Launched December 2018



Priority is 18-24 year old males.



7 men currently residing at the address.

28

Total number of residents to date

The Covid-19 lockdown restrictions presented quite a challenge for Clive, one of the tāne in the house. The restrictions made him uncomfortable and raised his anxiety levels. Puāwai staff talked him through the situation and coping mechanisms were developed to help him through this difficult period. He kept up with the news, talked through what was happening, went for daily walks to clear his head, and kept up his anti-abuse routines. He also took active roles in preparation of the house for lockdown, and in maintaining the regular disinfection routines in the house. Lockdown also impacted Clive's preparations to move out. Now we are back to alert Level 1 his plans to transition into independent accommodation have recommenced. Previous stays with Easy Access Housing (EAH) were problematic but Clive was able to point at the progress he had made while at Puāwai through the pandemic period. This persuaded EAH to give Clive a second chance, and he successfully moved into his own accommodation in early May.



Kaitia BSS

Launched August 2019



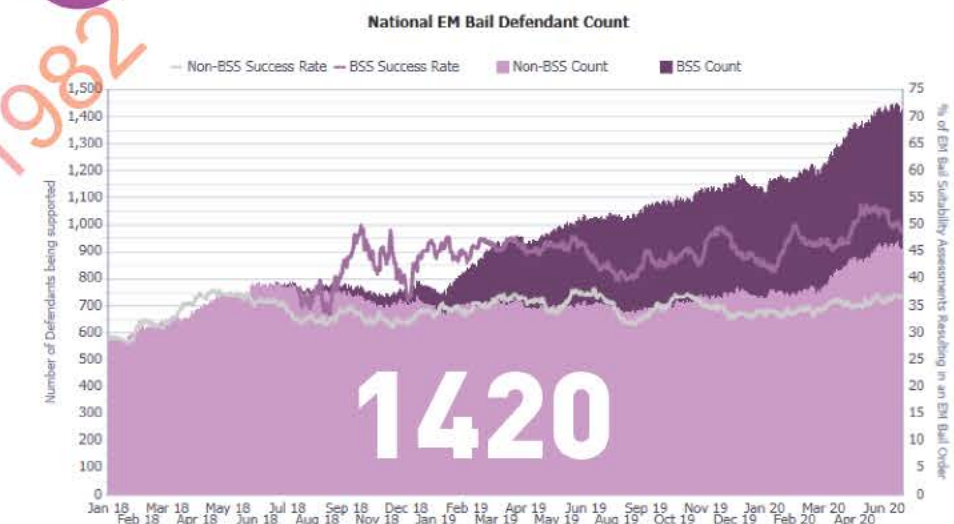
28 defendants received community support



14 defendants have received accommodation support



EM Bail

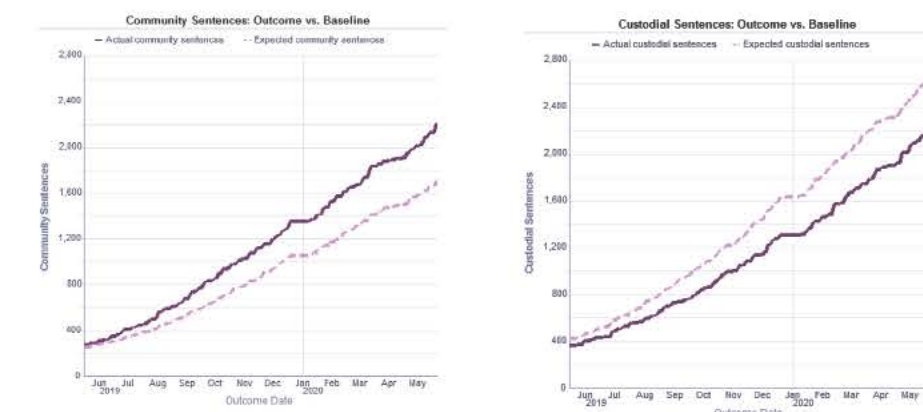


The EM Bail muster has continued to grow with a sharp increase in both the BSS and non-BSS cohorts since March 2020. Despite the fact the Covid-19 period saw a drop off in the number of EM Bail applications being filed (likely due to the reduced inflow of defendants entering custodial remand) the granting rates have trended upwards and this has seen sustained growth in the muster. This also indicates that returns to custody due to reoffending and non-compliance have subsided during the same period. The above graph shows that the EM Bail muster has almost doubled since the introduction of the BSS in the middle of 2018.

Sentencing outcomes for the BSS cohort continue to demonstrate improved outcomes in terms of custody avoidance (as opposed to the non-BSS cohort). This is testament to the fact that making time on bail meaningful and productive can have a significant impact on the trajectory of a defendant's journey through the system.



Sentencing Outcomes



Timeline:



Appendix One - Department of Corrections C123213

HIGH
IMPACT
INNOVATION
PROGRAMME



Sentencing Ready

Custody PACs



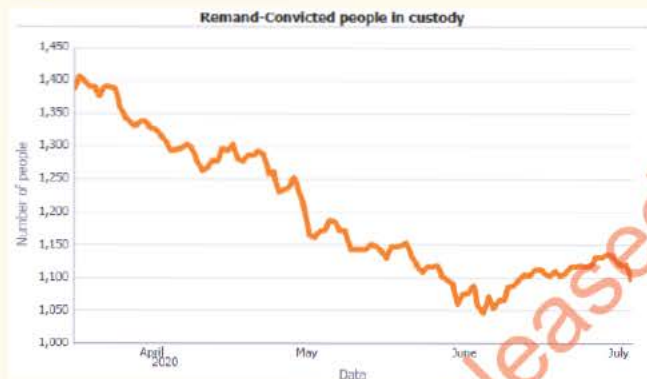
PAC Details as at 6 April - 1 July 2020

- 617** Total PAC Reports for people in Custody sent to MOJ ahead of schedule
- 471** Identified as Ready to Proceed
- 123** Unable to complete memos written for people in custody*
- 1429** New custody PAC reports ordered since 6 April 2020
- 1336** Custody PAC reports finalised since 6 April 2020

* All UTC memos were screened by Sentencing Ready and intervention applied where required



Remand Convicted People in Custody

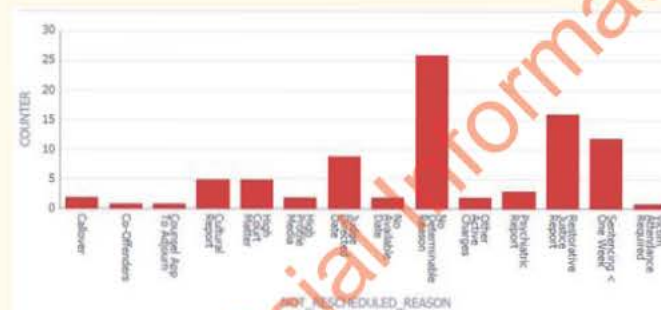


From a high of 1,406 on the 17th of March 2020, the remand-convicted population remains lower than this at 1,095 as of today. However, this has been steadily increasing since a low of 1,047 on the 4th of June 2020.

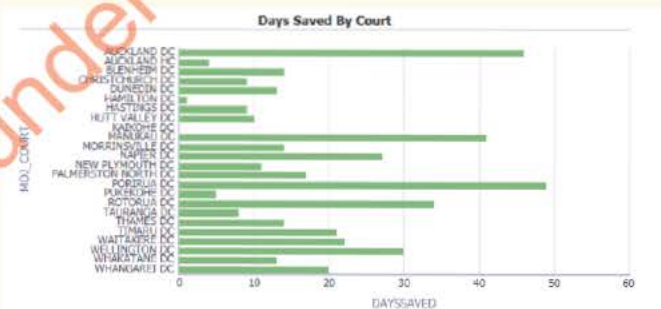


Rescheduling Details 6 April - 1 July 2020

- 115** Cases brought forward
- 105** Genuine reason not to bring them forward



Other

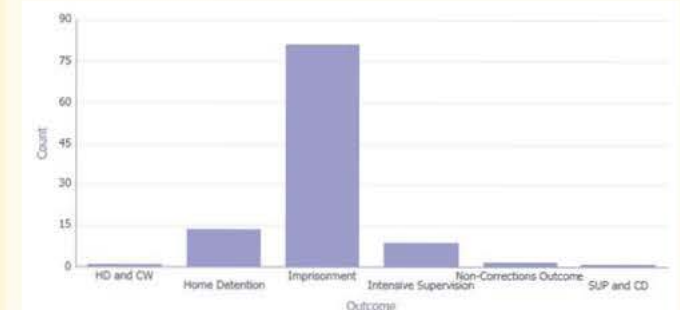


2180 Days saved total



Sentencing Details

- 1897** Total custody sentencing events since 6 April 2020
- 70.2%** Disposed
- 29.8%** Adjourned



Summary

Following both the early completion of PAC reports slowing down, and MOJ ability to access Court time to reschedule matters reducing, the initiative has been brought to a close.

Despite some challenges along the way, there has been some great success over these 12 weeks. The remand-convicted population has reduced, 115 individuals have had their matters heard earlier than originally scheduled, and the average time to next available date for custody sentencing has reduced to five weeks.

While this particular initiative winds up, the associated group remains committed to improving the timeliness of custody sentencing matters, and improving the disposal rates of custody sentencing matters. The initiative has also highlighted a number of areas for potential improvement and as such, we anticipate further focus and initiatives for MOJ, Police and Corrections in the near future.