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Janis Adair  
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Tēnā koe Janis

**Re: Thematic Report - Prisoners who have been kept apart from the mainstream prison population**

Thank you for sharing your draft report and providing an opportunity to respond. You have clearly delivered on your commitment to inquire into this important area and outlined for Corrections a compelling case for change.

Your report is informed by the experiences of real people. These people are individual prisoners who have been separated from others and your report highlights the potential risks of prolonged isolation from others. It's important to me that my team works closely with you over the next few months to ensure that we're targeting our effort at the areas where we are at greatest risk of creating harm in those we choose to separate. As your report notes, this must be enabled by a better understanding of who is being kept apart from others, why, and how they are being managed. I'd value ongoing engagement with your office to consider how we can take steps to safely increase opportunities for social interactions and meaningful human engagement.

This work must begin now, and I have asked the Chief Adviser System Transformation to ensure collaboration across Corrections, and with your team, to deliver the following over the next six months:

- Implement an interim assurance system for directed segregation orders.
- Explore the Intervention & Support Unit dashboard, currently under development, for adaptation to directed segregation orders.
- Implement an interim escalation process for directed segregation orders.
- Begin providing targeted support to custodial systems managers.

You also describe your report as a "*call to action to refresh, redesign and reimagine relevant policies, procedures and practices*" that relate to the separation of prisoners and recognise this will take time. You have made seven recommendations and I accept them all. The recommendations represent necessary and substantial shifts and I have agreed to establish a small team to work across Corrections to develop a long-term, system-wide plan for enduring change. The Prison Director Governance Group has already recognised the importance of this work for operating a safe, secure, humane and effective prison network and are committed to partnering in this work to make short-term improvements and long-term change.

Parallel to this, legislative policy work to consider amendments to the Corrections Act 2004 and Corrections Regulations 2005 has begun and will be an important component of the long-term plan.

Thank you again for your extensive thematic investigation. I am encouraged by what I consider to be a strong foundation for positive change, helping steer us closer toward realising the vision set out in *Hōkai Rangi*.

Nāku nōa nā



Jeremy Lightfoot  
Chief Executive