

24 August 2023

C167818

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 24 April 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about redundancies and pay-outs within Corrections. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

Please provide the following information for the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23:

- *Number of employees made redundant broken down into compulsory and voluntary redundancies. Please also provide total amount of redundancy pay-outs - compulsory as well as discretionary.*
 - *For each compulsory redundancy, please provide the number of cases where the employee was eligible for payment of pension. For each of these cases, please provide following:*
 - *Amount paid out as statutory redundancy payment*
 - *Amount paid out as discretionary redundancy payment*
 - *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70.*

For each voluntary redundancy, please provide the number of cases where the employee was eligible for payment of pension. For each of these cases, please provide following:

- *Amount paid out as statutory redundancy payment*
- *Amount paid out as discretionary redundancy payment*
- *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 50-55, 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70.*

Please provide following information for all cases of where the employee was eligible for early payment of pension:

- *Amount paid in statutory redundancy payment*
- *Amount paid out in discretionary redundancy payment*
- *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70,*
- *Total strain cost to the pension fund for early payment of pension due to redundancy.*
 - *If possible please break down this figure into strain costs due to voluntary and compulsory redundancy.*

Unfortunately, we cannot readily extract specific redundancy and pension data from our electronic records as it is not held in any readily retrievable format. To identify this type of specific information, we would be required to manually review a large number of files. While we can provide data for the amount of people who received a severance pay-out, Corrections systems applications and product (SAP) does not distinguish between Voluntary and Compulsory Redundancy. We would be required to assess every past employee's individual personal file to identify whether they were made redundant.

Corrections does not collate data about pensions costs. As Table One shows, we are able to provide the age group, however, this is the extent of what our system reports on.

Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as the information cannot be made without substantial collation or research. As per Section 18B we have considered whether consulting with you would enable the request to be made in a form that would remove the reason for the refusal. However, we do not consider that the request can be refined in this instance. Therefore, we have provided the data our SAP is able to report on.

We can only provide a total, which is shown in the table below. When reading the below data please note that there have been no severance or severance pay-outs in the 2022/23 financial year.

Table One: Severance Count Broken Down by Age Group		
Age Group	2020/21	2021/22
40-44	1	1
45-49	3	2
50-54	2	-
55-59	2	2
60-64	-	2
65-69	-	2
Total	8	9

This table provides the total amount of severance paid out by Corrections. When reading the below data please note that there have been no severance or severance pay-outs in the 2022/23 financial year.

Table Two: Total Severance Paid	
Year	Total Paid
2020/21	\$546,266
2021/22	\$617,850

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and strokes, positioned above the printed name and title.

Nic Barkley
Manager Ministerial Services
People and Capability