



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Corrections Amendment Regulations 2025

Portfolio Corrections

On 20 August 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU):

- 1 **noted** that in March 2025, SOU approved proposals to improve safety and operational practice in prisons that required changes to the Corrections Regulations 2005 to do the following:
 - 1.1 introduce temporary mechanical restraints (drop pins);
 - 1.2 impose restrictions on the operation of prisoner trust accounts;
 - 1.3 establish a regulatory framework for the use of CCTV and body-worn cameras;
 - 1.4 require risk assessments for remand prisoners;
 - 1.5 repeal outdated haircut and grooming provisions;
 - 1.6 remove outdated references to a 'punishment book';
 - 1.7 regulate the provision of privacy features and in-cell lighting controls for at-risk prisoners, prisoners segregated under section 60(1)(b) of the Corrections Act 2004 (the Act), and prisoners subject to the penalty of cell confinement;
 - 1.8 detail requirements for prisoner case management plans;
 - 1.9 regulate the mixing of accused and convicted prisoners, prisoners who may have their babies with them in prison, and young and adult prisoners;

[SOU-25-MIN-0018]
- 2 **noted** that SOU authorised the Minister of Corrections to make further decisions on minor and technical matters, including any consequential amendments, in line with the policy decisions agreed;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister of Corrections exercised the authorisation above to clarify that the prohibition on recording prisoner visits without preapproval does not apply to body-worn cameras if they are used in accordance with other regulations governing their use;

- 4 **agreed** that the ‘pre-authorised’ use of drop pins be limited to at-risk prisoners and prisoners subject to segregation under section 58 or 60(1)(b) of the Act, and only where their use is recommended in the prisoner’s at-risk or segregation management plan because of risk the prisoner poses, narrowing the broader original approval for use in high and maximum security settings;
- 5 **agreed** that ‘situational’ use of drop pins be enabled where justified by risk posed by the prisoner and must be followed by mandatory reporting, expanding the original approval for use in high and maximum security settings;
- 6 **agreed** that the Amendment Regulations not give effect to paragraphs 2.2 to 2.5 of SOU-25-MIN-0018 to enable operational complexities relating to the use of CCTV in prisons to be addressed, 9(2)(f)(iv)
9(2)(f)(iv)
- 7 **agreed** that the use of body-worn cameras by Corrections officers be enabled in the course of their duties both inside and outside of prisons, expanding the narrower original approval for use in prisons only;
- 8 **agreed** that a Corrections officer must have reasonable grounds for activating a body-worn camera in order to do so during a strip search;
- 9 **agreed** that the Amendment Regulations not include a legislative requirement for Corrections officers to notify prisoners before activating a body-worn camera, revoking the original approval for this requirement;
- 10 **agreed** that on the recommendation of the health centre manager, a prison manager may provide a privacy screen to a prisoner subject to directed segregation for the purpose of assessing or ensuring their mental health under section 60(1)(b) of the Act;
- 11 **agreed** to replace a delayed commencement with a transitional period until 6 July 2028 for infrastructure changes required by new privacy and lighting rules, enabling phased implementation whereby Corrections is able to comply before that date and must comply from that date;
- 12 **agreed** that risk assessments for remand prisoners assessed as higher risk be reviewed every six months, extending the approval in SOU-25-MIN-0018 for every three months;
- 13 **agreed** that the settings for prisoner trust accounts previously agreed by SOU in March 2025 [SOU-25-MIN-0018], proceed at a later date, 9(2)(h), 9(2)(f)(iv)
9(2)(h), 9(2)(f)(iv)
- 14 9(2)(h), 9(2)(f)(iv)
9(2)(h), 9(2)(f)(iv) to
determine settings of and decision-making relating to the operation of prisoner trust accounts, including the opening and closing of accounts, and decisions relating to balances, deposits and depositors, spending, withdrawals, and other transactions;
- 15 9(2)(h), 9(2)(f)(iv)

- 16 **agreed** that the Amendment Regulations not include an amendment relating to the use of less-lethal weapons in cases of passive resistance, as it is unnecessary given that the existing provisions in the Act contain the necessary restrictions;
- 17 **noted** that section 11 of the Corrections Amendment Act 2024 is required to be in force before the regulations relating to case management plans can take effect, and is currently set to commence on 30 September 2025;
- 18 **noted** that the Corrections Amendment Regulations 2025 are intended to come into force on 30 September 2025 to align with the Corrections Amendment Act 2024;
- 19 **invited** the Minister of Corrections to seek authorisation from Cabinet to submit the Corrections Amendment Regulations 2025 to the Executive Council.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Scott Simpson

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SOU
Office of the Minister of Education