

9 September 2020

C123358

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Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 21 June 2020, requesting information regarding incarceration rates of those who associate with gangs. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Keeping the public safe and helping people to stop offending are Corrections' top priorities. We recognise that effective gang management in prisons and in the community is a crucial aspect of achieving this.

Gangs in various forms have existed in New Zealand communities and prisons for several decades. As it has in the community, the proportion of people in prison who identify as gang members has been steadily increasing over the last 30 years. This is an ongoing problem recognised by both Corrections and the New Zealand Police.

Corrections takes all reasonable steps to discourage people in prison from gang membership by providing programmes and opportunities to support them with disassociating themselves from gangs and gang-related activities. This includes supporting people to build alternative support networks, or access services such as tattoo removal. Pathways to exit gangs can also form part of a broader suite of rehabilitation programmes which support offenders to build sustainable and law-abiding lifestyles.

Please note that the below information represents the number of people in prison who identified as active affiliation with a gang. This term is used to refer to anyone who is presently recorded as having a connection to a gang, including prospects, associates and patched members.

People in prison can be identified as being connected to a gang by various means, including by one or more of the following:

- Gang tattoos/markings;
- Gang documentation/paraphernalia;
- Information from other agencies;
- Admission to staff;
- Staff observations; and/or
- Intelligence information from other sources.

You requested:

*The number of incarcerated offenders and accused held in remand that affiliate with various gangs, and how many of those are Māori.*

Please find the requested information, based on a snapshot of the prison population as at 31 May 2020, attached as Appendix One. When reviewing this data please note that the prison population fluctuates on a daily basis due to arrests, sentencing outcomes and scheduled release dates.

There are two types of people on remand:

- a person who has not yet been found guilty of the charge(s) laid against them (remand accused);
- a person who has been found guilty of the charge(s) laid against them, but the sentence they are to serve has not yet been determined by the courts (remand convicted).

Although your request has specified individuals held on remand, to provide a more complete picture figures are also provided for sentenced prisoners. You may wish to note that on 31 May 2020 the total prison population was 9,580. Of these individuals 6,054 were sentenced, 2,451 were remand accused, and 1,075 were remand convicted.

Please also note that to answer your request we have refined the search to include gangs with at least 70 affiliated individuals in prison. The Nomads is the only gang that falls within this scope that was not specified in your request. Corrections' records indicate there are approximately another 250 individuals with a recorded gang affiliation in prison, spread across nearly 50 other gangs, which generally have much smaller numbers than those listed in Appendix One.

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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Leota', with a stylized, sweeping underline.

Rachel Leota  
National Commissioner

**Appendix One - The number of sentenced prisoners and prisoners held in remand that affiliate with a gang, and how many of those are Māori**

Table 1: The number of prisoners (all ethnicities) who are gang affiliated; by gang affiliation and custodial status.

<b>GANG NAME</b>	<b>REMAND ACCUSED</b>	<b>REMAND CONVICTED</b>	<b>SENTENCED</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Mongrel Mob</b>	275	132	633	1,040
<b>Black Power</b>	191	89	399	679
<b>Crips</b>	112	42	238	392
<b>Killer Beez</b>	99	33	206	338
<b>Head Hunters MC</b>	59	14	126	199
<b>Nomads</b>	42	19	96	157
<b>Bloods</b>	45	19	91	155
<b>Tribesmen MC</b>	43	14	97	154
<b>King Cobra</b>	20	10	42	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>1,928</b>	<b>3,186</b>

Table 2: The number of Māori prisoners who are gang affiliated, by gang affiliation and custodial status

<b>GANG NAME</b>	<b>REMAND ACCUSED</b>	<b>REMAND CONVICTED</b>	<b>SENTENCED</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Mongrel Mob	223	107	536	866
Black Power	161	79	353	593
Crips	70	24	129	223
Killer Beez	63	22	143	228
Head Hunters MC	29	6	68	103
Nomads	28	10	70	108
Bloods	11	8	28	47
Tribesmen MC	38	9	71	118
King Cobra	7	1	8	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>2,302</b>