



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Corrections Act 2004: Proposed Consultation on More Transparent Management of Extreme Threat Prisoners

Portfolio Corrections

On 12 February 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **approved** the public release of the discussion document *Consultation on options for more transparent management of extreme threat prisoners: Discussion document 2025* (the discussion document), attached to the submission SOU-25-SUB-0001, to support a six-week consultation process;
- 2 **agreed** that the discussion document include options that:
 - 2.1 formalise in legislation a decision-making process for designating extreme threat prisoners, such as through a chief executive decision supported by a panel of experts or a court process;
 - 2.2 define the characteristics that constitute an extreme threat prisoner for the formal designation process (e.g. certain types of terrorist offences, or violence, or links to organised crime);
 - 2.3 ensure the security classification framework fully accounts for the nature of the threat posed by extreme threat prisoners;
 - 2.4 amend the segregation framework to allow for the necessary higher level of custodial management of extreme threat prisoners;
 - 2.5 provide legislative clarity on the definition of 'meaningful human contact' supported by operational policies that help staff understand how to ensure prisoners engage meaningfully with others and do not experience prolonged solitary confinement;
 - 2.6 provide additional wellbeing and rehabilitative supports to mitigate the impact of long periods of segregation such as additional minimum entitlements including phone calls, education, or exercise options;
 - 2.7 demonstrate how each prisoner's management plan is tailored to support the prisoner to use their time constructively;
 - 2.8 provide clarity as to how a controlled management unit interacts with a host prison, and which prison manager has the power to manage prisoners during day-to-day activities and during unexpected incidents;

- 2.9 empower Corrections to destroy the property of prisoners when it may be appropriate to prevent public harm;
- 3 **directed** the Department of Corrections to commence six weeks of public consultation on options for more transparent management of extreme threat prisoners, as soon as the discussion document is published;
- 4 **authorised** the Department of Corrections to make minor changes arising from editing and formatting prior to public release of the discussion document;
- 5 **noted** that the Minister of Corrections (the Minister) is seeking a category five priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme (to proceed to select committee by the end of 2025) for the legislative vehicle that will give effect to the changes related to the management of extreme threat prisoners;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister expects to report back to Cabinet to seek approval to final policy decisions in June 2025.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Andrew Bayly
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon Nicola Grigg

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for SOU
Office of the Minister of Education