

09 March 2021

C130216

S 9(2)(a)



Tēnā koe S 9(2)(a)



Thank you for your email of 8 January 2021, requesting information about contraband and drug testing in prisons. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections' key priorities are safety and wellbeing – of communities, our staff and the people we are managing in prisons and the community. Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) issues are common among people under Corrections' management. Sixty percent of people on community-based sentences have an identified AOD need and 87 percent of people in prison have experienced an AOD need over their lifetime

We currently manage approximately 8,800 people in prison. Some individuals go to extreme lengths to introduce contraband into prison, including alcohol, other drugs, and associated paraphernalia. Contraband in prison presents a significant risk to the security of the site, the safety of staff, and the wellbeing of the people who consume or trade it. The use of alcohol and other drug contraband can also inhibit the participation and success of a person's rehabilitation programmes aimed at reducing their risk of re-offending.

Individuals attempt to introduce contraband in many ways including concealment in vehicles, internal concealment on a person's body, concealment in incoming mail and property, items thrown over fences and smuggled by visitors. Corrections carries out a significant amount of work to prevent introduction, and we continue to ensure that new methods of introduction are prevented. Our intelligence staff constantly work to identify and mitigate risk areas in the physical environment, and to stay informed about new methods of concealment.

Drug testing aims to detect and prevent the use of drugs in prison. An algorithm is used to ensure people in prison who meet eligibility criteria are randomly selected for a drug test correctly. Testing for alcohol and drugs allows us to better intervene with a person according to their identified AOD needs. People often understate their use, believing that honesty will only get them into trouble if they have an abstinence condition. Testing provides an evidence base for treatment and allows us to open dialogue with a person about their AOD use. This means we are able to target a person's intervention to their actual need. Testing also enables us to focus our efforts on identifying and mitigating the supply of contraband in prisons.

Alcohol and other drugs are often factors in a person's offending and can be detrimental to their overall wellbeing and the wellbeing of their whanau. As a result we provide treatment services in the community and prison. Corrections is offering more support to people with addictions. Recent initiatives include:

- RecoveRing – 0800 alcohol and drug support line for offenders and prisoners. This 24/7 support line offers advice, a brief needs assessment and crisis support. Calls are answered by experienced registered alcohol and drug practitioners.
- Alcohol and other drug aftercare workers – based in our Drug Treatment Units and Intensive Treatment Programmes, aftercare workers offer ongoing maintenance support to prisoners, including when they leave prison.
- Additional beds in residential treatment facilities: Corrections is funding additional beds for community-based offenders with significant alcohol and drug needs.

These initiatives complement Corrections' existing services, including our Drug Treatment Programmes, Intensive Treatment Programmes and the brief interventions offered by our probation officers and case managers.

You have requested the following information:

- *How many prisoners, if any, have been caught with illicit drugs in prison over the past 10 years, broken down by month?*

Please find attached Appendix One: Contraband drugs found 2010/11 to 2020/21 up to 31 December 2020. Please note that the date represents contraband incidents rather than individuals found with contraband.

- *How many, if any, random drug tests were undertaken on prisoners each year for the past 10 years at each prison in New Zealand?*

Please find attached Appendix two: Total random drug tests 2010/11 to 2020/21 up to December 2020.

Please note that the total rate of drug testing in 2020 have been lower due to COVID-19 restrictions in prisons, which included the suspension of visits and non-essential prisoner transfers and industries from 24 March 2020.

- *How many, if any, prisoners tested positive for illicit drugs during random drug tests which were undertaken on prisoners each year for the past 10 years at each prison in New Zealand, and what drugs they tested positive for?*

Please find attached Appendix three: Total positive random? drug tests 2010/11 to 2020/21 up to December 2020.

When reviewing the data provided in Appendices One to Three, please note that due to changes and enhancements to reporting practices, these figures may differ from those previously published elsewhere.

- *Any policies the Department has regarding drug testing of inmates.*

Guidance for prison drug and alcohol testing is available on Corrections' website in the Prison Operations Manual section, *S.07 Drug and alcohol testing*:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Security/S.07-Drug-and-alcohol-testing

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them 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 nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Topia Rameka', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Topia Rameka
Acting National Commissioner

Appendix One: Contraband drugs found 2010/11 to 2020/21, as at 31 December 2020.

Row Labels	Amphetamine/ Methamphetamine	Cannabis Leaf - less than 20 grams	Cannabis Leaf - greater than 20 grams	Cannabis Oil	Drug Indication e.g. physical factors, smell	Other suspected / Unidentified	Pill Tablets / capsules	Powder other	Total
2010-2011	31	331	37	49	833	65	70	10	1426
31/07/2010	5	35	8	3	9	10	8	-	160
31/08/2010	2	25	2	3	71		5	1	118
30/09/2010	4	26	-	-	59	7	5	1	102
31/10/2010	2	27	3	2	60	4	5	-	103
30/11/2010	2	33	2	7	75	3	11	1	134
31/12/2010	3	40	3	7	69	3	11	2	138
31/01/2011	3	20	2	3	66	2	6	-	102
28/02/2011	3	20	1	3	37	3	4	-	71
31/03/2011	-	16	4	4	67	5	1	2	99
30/04/2011	2	16		4	63	6	3	1	96
31/05/2011	2	35		5	93	9	3	-	155
30/06/2011	3	38	3	8	82	4	8	2	148
2011-2012	32	296	15	27	622	50	52	11	1105
31/07/2011	6	39	2	1	84	4	2	-	138
31/08/2011	2	30	2	6	64	7	5	3	119
30/09/2011	3	38	5	4	68	3	5	-	126
31/10/2011	2	18	1	1	23	3	4	-	52
30/11/2011	2	19		4	56	6	5	-	92
31/12/2011	1	30	-	2	41	9	8	1	92
31/01/2012	3	14	-	-	27	6	4	-	54
29/02/2012	2	7	-	1	51	5	6	2	74
31/03/2012	2	2	-	2	51	3	6	-	84
30/04/2012	3	9	1	2	43	1	1	2	72
31/05/2012	3	31	4	1	67	2	2	1	111
30/06/2012	3	31	-	3	47	1	4	2	91
2012-2013	18	235	23	26	528	25	36	5	896
31/07/2012	1	19	NATIONAL OFFICE, WELLINGTON			44	1	-	67

Row Labels	Amphetamine/ Methamphetamine	Cannabis Leaf - less than 20 grams	Cannabis Leaf - greater than 20 grams	Cannabis Oil	Drug Indication e.g. physical factors, smell	Other suspected / Unidentified	Pills / Tablets / Capsules	Powder other	Total
31/08/2012	2	38	1	1	62	2	2	2	110
30/09/2012	3	24	1	2	62	1	2	1	96
31/10/2012	1	17	-	2	30	4	4	1	59
30/11/2012	-	11	4	2	31		4		56
31/12/2012	-	23	-	1	30	1	1	1	57
31/01/2013	1	18	-	-	38	1	2	-	60
28/02/2013	3	12	1	5	33	-	4	-	58
31/03/2013	1	15	1	2	34	3	4	-	60
30/04/2013	1	29	4	7	60	2	5	-	108
31/05/2013	3	13	5	4	57	4	4	-	90
30/06/2013	2	16	4	-	47	2	4	-	75
2013-2014	27	222	26	22	486	62	42	11	898
31/07/2013	-	26		2	52	9	2	2	98
31/08/2013	4	18	2	4	61	4	2	1	96
30/09/2013	-	17	3	3	34	3	5	1	66
31/10/2013	4	14	1	2	37	4	4	1	67
30/11/2013	2	1	1	-	38	1	3	1	64
31/12/2013	1	17	1	1	31	4	2	2	59
31/01/2014	4	21	2	1	34	2	3	1	68
28/02/2014	3	16	2	5	42	4	3	-	75
31/03/2014	2	12	1	-	21	7	3	-	46
30/04/2014	3	26	4	2	43	5	6	2	91
31/05/2014	3	24	3	2	61	13	8	-	114
30/06/2014	1	1	1	-	32	6	1	-	54
2014-2015	2	2	19	38	413	86	92	10	912
31/07/2014	2	24	1	2	53	12	6	2	102
31/08/2014	5	34	3	1	37	8	4	1	93
30/09/2014	6	9	2	7	39	5	11	-	79
31/10/2014	7	11	4	3	42	11	13	1	92

Row Labels	Amphetamine/ Methamphetamine	Cannabis Leaf - less than 20 grams	Cannabis Leaf - greater than 20 grams	Cannabis Oil	Drug Indication e.g. physical factors, smell	Other suspected / Unidentified	Pills / Tablets / Capsules	Powder other	Total
30/11/2014	2	8	-	1	28	7	5	1	52
31/12/2014	5	21	-	7	33	9	11	1	87
31/01/2015	3	13	3	1	22	8	5	1	56
28/02/2015	2	8	1	1	18		5	2	42
31/03/2015	2	10	-	2	23	9	4	1	51
30/04/2015	4	16	2	4	31	6	10	-	73
31/05/2015	2	32	1	2	42	5	9	-	93
30/06/2015	2	26	2	7	45	1	9	-	92
2015-2016	41	229	23	45	402	75	102	8	1,025
31/07/2015	1	19	1	6	52	7	8	-	94
31/08/2015	6	20	2	5	44	4	5	-	86
30/09/2015	5	18	2	3	37	5	9	-	79
31/10/2015	1	15		3	29	7	10	-	65
30/11/2015	2	24		2	27	3	9	1	68
31/12/2015	3	25	1	3	36	10	14	2	94
31/01/2016	1	22	-	2	43	10	6	-	84
29/02/2016	2	1	1	3	30	2	7	-	58
31/03/2016	4	15	3	6	49	6	5	1	89
30/04/2016	5	17	3	4	56	10	7	3	105
31/05/2016	5	17	4	4	54	5	15	-	104
30/06/2016	6	24	6	4	45	6	7	1	99
2016-2017	66	236	22	58	395	75	126	16	994
31/07/2016	2	30	2	6	31	4	12	-	87
31/08/2016	5	2	3	2	49	6	16	2	109
30/09/2016	9	3	5	-	27	5	17	1	77
31/10/2016	8	24	1	9	37	5	7	2	93
30/11/2016	7	21	1	-	32	11	10	-	82
31/12/2016	4	12	2	5	18	12	7	3	63
31/01/2017	2	20	2	3	26	5	10	-	68

Row Labels	Amphetamine/ Methamphetamine	Cannabis Leaf - less than 20 grams	Cannabis Leaf - greater than 20 grams	Cannabis Oil	Drug Indication e.g. physical factors, smell	Other suspected / Identified	Pills / Tablets / Capsules	Powder other	Total
28/02/2017	4	17	-	7	19	3	9	-	59
31/03/2017	5	16	-	3	43	8	4	1	80
30/04/2017	6	23	3	5	40	4	8	3	92
31/05/2017	3	15	-	11	36		13	1	87
30/06/2017	11	19	3	7	37	4	13	3	97
2017-2018	59	223	15	55	444	95	131	16	1,038
31/07/2017	10	20	2	4	28	1	10	1	76
31/08/2017	2	13	-	8	33	3	13	-	72
30/09/2017	3	18	-	6	50	11	6	1	95
31/10/2017	4	17	-	3	37	11	10	3	85
30/11/2017	3	18	-	12	41	10	12	1	97
31/12/2017	3	20	2	3	47	11	12	3	101
31/01/2018	6	9		6	16	8	18	3	67
28/02/2018	3	7	1	2	17	7	12	2	51
31/03/2018	7	10	-	1	31	9	8	2	68
30/04/2018	7	23	5		31	11	7	-	84
31/05/2018	7	3	4	2	69	8	13	-	139
30/06/2018	4	32		8	44	5	10	-	103
2018-2019	70	256	2	53	383	107	131	14	1,038
31/07/2018	3	19	1	4	19	7	8	1	62
31/08/2018	5	25	2	2	35	5	12	3	89
30/09/2018	5	18	1	4	32	8	7	-	75
31/10/2018	5	21	-	4	27	6	9	2	74
30/11/2018	3	1	2	6	36	4	8	3	81
31/12/2018	4	23	2	4	25	14	6	-	78
31/01/2019	6	19	3	1	30	11	11	-	81
28/02/2019	9	12	2	6	14	6	15	-	64
31/03/2019	7	15		6	32	12	16	1	89
30/04/2019	6	25	4	4	43	8	14	-	104

Row Labels	Amphetamine/ Methamphetamine	Cannabis Leaf - less than 20 grams	Cannabis Leaf - greater than 20 grams	Cannabis Oil	Drug Indication e.g. physical factors, smell	Other suspected / Unidentified	Pills / Tablets / Capsules	Powder other	Total
31/05/2019	10	30	5	7	62	16	9	2	141
30/06/2019	7	30	2	5	28	10	16	2	100
2019-2020	104	274	23	65	473	112	170	27	1,248
31/07/2019	7	32	1	6	72	1	11	2	143
31/08/2019	18	24	2	10	36	18	12	5	125
30/09/2019	12	23	2	11	52	9	7	2	118
31/10/2019	14	23	1	5	65	14	23	3	148
30/11/2019	3	21	4	5	32	8	17		90
31/12/2019	11	25	1	8	46	9	13	6	119
31/01/2020	7	17	2	8	43	9	13	3	102
29/02/2020	9	20	1	5	29	7	15	2	88
31/03/2020	11	20	3	2	32	7	12	1	88
30/04/2020	4	13		3	10	8	15	1	55
31/05/2020	4	32	5	1	26	1	20		89
30/06/2020	4	24		1	30	10	12	2	83
2020-2021	38	161	13	23	254	62	96	16	663
31/07/2020	5	2	2	1	41	15	21	2	114
31/08/2020	2	24	4	3	23	4	13	1	74
30/09/2020	5	17		3	36	11	16	2	91
31/10/2020	9	39	5	5	62	13	17	4	154
30/11/2020	9	30		9	48	12	13	3	124
31/12/2020	8	2	1	2	44	7	16	4	106

Appendix two – Total random drug tests 2010/11 to 2020/21, as at 31 December 2020.

Site	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021 (Jul - Dec)
Auckland Central Remand Prison ¹	182	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arohata Prison	48	42	29	45	33	5	30	74	9	36	18
Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility	145	134	163	150	186	215	213	21	220	147	72
Auckland South Corrections Facility ²	0	0	0	0	15	74	553	57	525	413	198
Auckland Prison	349	315	265	187	273	144	108	255	234	209	100
Christchurch Men's Prison	330	323	369	377	395	43	5	416	388	301	151
Christchurch Women's Prison	38	45	42	42	3	24	33	6	37	21	14
Hawkes Bay Regional Prison	279	243	280	325	301	302	94	333	345	248	127
Invercargill Prison	71	60	61	58	70	5	52	81	87	61	31
Manawatu Prison	135	103	124	128	152	19	107	128	104	84	44
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	25	358	347	347	372	35	358	328	264	181	43
New Plymouth Prison ³	27	42	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northland Region Corrections Facility	221	190	24	330	262	202	263	315	283	186	84
Otago Corrections Facility	162	177	86	214	20	179	235	207	248	183	104
Rimutaka Prison	385	494	5	555	577	559	474	511	522	378	165
Rolleston Prison	138	140	38	34	141	144	133	118	124	147	65
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	412	42	498	56	609	439	438	446	404	320	134
Tongariro Prison	264	222	202	205	214	159	153	152	134	108	67
Waikeria Prison	374	374	5	292	300	245	253	302	285	201	85
Wellington Prison ⁴	81	54	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whanganui Prison	9	281	262	271	206	243	250	253	251	172	89
Total	94	4,02	4,077	4,223	4,349	4,301	4,352	4,701	4,514	3,396	1,591

¹ Auckland Central Remand Prison closed 20 when Mt Eden Corrections Facility opened

² Auckland South Corrections Facility opened in 2015

³ New Plymouth Prison closed in 2012

⁴ Wellington Prison closed in 2012

Appendix three – Total positive drug tests 2010/11 to 2020/21, as at 31 December 2020.

Site	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021 (Jul - Dec)
Auckland Central Remand Prison ⁵	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arohata Prison	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility	2	1	1	3	2	2	0	4	4	5	2
Auckland South Corrections Facility ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31	33	32	9
Auckland Prison	15	4	3	7	10	2	2	4	4	1	2
Christchurch Men's Prison	15	6	13	24	11	8	9	8	9	6	4
Christchurch Women's Prison	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	5	1	2
Hawkes Bay Regional Prison	12	2	19	17	10	16	18	13	17	15	9
Invercargill Prison	6	0	0	1	2	4	2	4	6	11	0
Manawatu Prison	19	13	11	16	23	0	21	10	10	14	5
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	1	14	12	13	18	2	9	11	8	4	2
New Plymouth Prison ⁷	0	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northland Region Corrections Facility	26	14	1	7	14	10	3	5	5	6	0
Otago Corrections Facility	1	2	4	5	-	4	1	4	4	5	0
Rimutaka Prison	24	22	-	23	17	16	24	16	17	8	9
Rolleston Prison	8	11	4	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	41	5	39	-	13	7	7	23	14	12	2
Tongariro Prison	12	2	3	7	9	0	0	0	0	4	0
Waikeria Prison	28	16	0	13	16	10	11	13	11	8	4
Wellington Prison ⁸	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whanganui Prison	0	11	13	15	12	9	14	18	12	18	13
Total	26	1	176	162	158	149	155	167	161	150	63

⁵ Auckland Central Remand Prison closed 2010 when Mt Eden Corrections Facility opened

⁶ Auckland South Corrections Facility opened in 2015

⁷ New Plymouth Prison closed in 2012

⁸ Wellington Prison closed in 2012