



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Waikeria Prison Riot: Ex Gratia Payments for Lost Personal Property

Portfolio **Corrections**

On 12 May 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Waikeria riot, which took place from 29 December 2020 to 3 January 2021, caused extensive damage to the top jail facility at Waikeria Prison;
- 2 **noted** that, as a result of the Waikeria riot, prisoner and staff property stored at the top jail facility has been destroyed or is unable to be safely recovered;
- 3 **noted** that the Department of Corrections has no legal obligation to compensate prisoners and staff for loss of their personal property;
- 4 **noted** that the Department of Corrections proposes making an *ex gratia* payment to prisoners and staff who lost personal property as a result of the riot;
- 5 **authorised** the Department of Corrections to make *ex gratia* payments to prisoners who lost personal property due to the Waikeria riot (excluding those who have been charged in relation to the riot), up to a total of \$1.3 million;
- 6 **authorised** the Department of Corrections to make *ex gratia* payments to staff who lost personal property due to the Waikeria riot, for an amount equivalent to the losses they have incurred, after any personal insurance options have been exhausted, up to a total of \$50,000;
- 7 **noted** that any authorised *ex gratia* payments will be funded from the Department of Corrections' existing budget allocation through reprioritisation.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Aupito William Sio
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the SWC Chair
Officials Committee for SWC