

28 September 2020

C125101

s9(2)(a)

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Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 1 August 2020, requesting information regarding visits to prison sites by Members of Parliament (MPs) in the current parliamentary term. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

all material on visits to prisons by MPs, including Ministers, in the current term

Information relating to visits to prisons by MPs is not centrally recorded or located and providing this information would require individual consultation with each of our 18 prisons. Therefore, this part of your request is declined under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. If there is a particular visit or prison you are interested in, please advise and we can look into this for you.

However, I am able to provide a list of names and locations of visits to prisons by MPs between 1 January 2017 and 1 August 2020, which is in the attached Appendix One. As visits have been recorded by calendar year, not term of Government, the information has been provided accordingly. The list does not include visits that were postponed or cancelled, or visits to other Corrections sites or initiatives.

As stated in section 161 of the Corrections Act 2004 any MP may, whenever the member considers it appropriate, enter a prison and examine it and the condition of the prisoners, and may inform the prison manager of his or her observations.

Individual prisons generally determine the nature of the visit following consultation with the visiting MP. Visits may differ depending on what the visiting MP would like to see. Some visits include a general tour of the prison, while others may focus on a specific industry or training programme.

In recent years, there has been an expectation that details of planned visits to a prison by an MP (or any subsequent cancellations of the visit) will be notified to a staff member based at Corrections' National Office in Wellington. The information provided in Appendix One has been extracted from these centralised records and as such, only includes information that has been notified to Corrections' National Office.

As you will appreciate, COVID-19 restrictions have impacted Corrections' ability to accommodate visits this year. Therefore, there have been fewer prison visits by MPs in 2020 than previous years.

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.

Yours sincerely



Richard Waggott
Deputy Chief Executive - People and Capability

Appendix One – MP visits to New Zealand Prisons from 1 January 2017 to 1 August 2020

Prison	2017	2018	2019	2020
Northland Region Corrections Facility	Louise Upston Winston Peters Te Ururoa Flavell	Kelvin Davis	David Bennett Matt King Kelvin Davis (2) Carmel Sepuloni	No visits
Auckland Prison	Bill English Louise Upston Marama Davidson (3) Kelvin Davis	Chris Penk Kelvin David Marama Davidson David Bennett	Winston Peters	Chris Penk Mark Mitchell Simeon Brown
Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility	Jacinda Ardern Nanaia Mahuta Louisa Wall Kelvin Davis	Marama Davidson (2) Louisa Wall (2) Kiritapu Allan Meka Whaitiri	Kelvin Davis Andrew Little Aupito William Sio	No visits
Auckland South Corrections Facility	Amy Adams Bill English Louise Upston Kelvin Davis	Andrew Little Darroch Ball David Bennett Peeni Henare Carmel Sepuloni	Angie Warren Clark Deborah Russell Kelvin Davis	No visits
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	David Parker	Kelvin Davis Darroch Ball David Bennett	David Seymour Kelvin Davis	Simeon Brown
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	Louise Upston Peseta Sam Lotu-Iga Aupito William Sio (2)	David Bennett Darroch Ball Jamie Strange Tim van de Molen	Kelvin Davis Scott Simpson Tracey Martin (2)	No visits
Tongariro Prison	Louise Upston Marama Davidson	David Bennett	Kelvin Davis	No visits
Waikeria Prison	Barbara Kuriger Mahesh Bindra Kelvin Davis Andrew Little	Jacinda Ardern Kelvin Davis (2) David Bennett	David Bennett	Simeon Brown
Hawke's Bay Regional Prison		Kelvin Davis (2)	Andrew Little Stuart Nash	Kelvin Davis Peeni Henare
Manawatu Prison	Louise Upston	Kelvin Davis Adrian Rurawhe Darroch Ball	No visits	No visits
Whanganui Prison	Louise Upston	Kelvin Davis (2) Adrian Rurawhe David Bennett Harete Hipango	No visits	No visits
Rimutaka Prison	Louise Upston Kelvin Davis (2)	Kelvin Davis (3) David Bennett Chris Hipkins	Winston Peters Chris Bishop Nicola Willis Kelvin Davis (2)	No visits
Arohata Prison	Louise Upston	Kelvin Davis Greg O'Connor	Kelvin Davis (2) Chris Bishop Nicola Willis Paula Bennett	No visits
Rolleston Prison	Bill English Amy Adams Louise Upston	Kelvin Davis	Megan Woods	No visits
Christchurch Men's Prison	Louise Upston Nicky Wagner	Kelvin Davis (2) Darroch Ball Winston Peters David Bennett Nuk Korako	Duncan Webb Greg O'Connor Ginny Andersen Chris Hipkins Kelvin Davis	Duncan Webb Kieran McAnulty

Prison	2017	2018	2019	2020
Christchurch Women's Prison	Louise Upston (2)	Kelvin Davis David Bennett Nuk Korako	Duncan Webb Chris Hipkins	No visits
Otago Corrections Facility	Louise Upston Mark Patterson Kelvin Davis	Hamish Walker Eugenie Sage	David Bennett Kelvin Davis	No visits
Invercargill Prison	Kelvin Davis	No visits	No visits	No visits