

04 June 2021

C134456

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 29 March 2021 to the Ministry of Justice, requesting various information about community work.

As you are aware, on 8 April 2021, the following parts of your request were transferred to Corrections, pursuant to section 14 of the OIA:

- *The number of people who breached their sentence of community work over the past five years (January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2020), broken down by year, and region.*
- *The number of people who breached their sentence of community work over the five-year period more than once, broken down by year, and region.*

Individuals are ordered by the court to complete Community Work, which exists alongside a range of other community-based sentences and orders. Community Work is a sentence type that requires people to complete between 40 and 400 hours unpaid work in the community to pay something back for the offence they have committed. The sentence is either completed in a work party supervised by Community Corrections staff, called a centre placement, or on an individual basis through placement at an agency.

If the work is completed for an agency, it will be supervised by someone from that agency. Community Corrections staff check with the agency that the individual has completed the right number of hours and completed the work to the required standard.

While people are encouraged to complete Community Work hours as soon as possible, Community Corrections staff balance attendance against individuals' employment and family responsibilities, as well as other potential barriers such as health concerns. Corrections' priority is to work with people to complete their Community Work, safely and successfully. While completing Community Work hours, individuals will normally be able to continue with their regular jobs. Where possible, Corrections works with individuals to address the impact on their family or employment obligations through flexible scheduling. If an individual subject to

Community Work does not meet the requirements of their sentence, Corrections classifies this as non-compliance and treats it very seriously. It may result in:

- an internal sanction, for example, a warning,
- a formal breach action which may result in a further conviction, another sentence, or imprisonment, or
- an application to the court to cancel the sentence and replace it with a more restrictive sentence.

More information regarding Community Work is available on Corrections' website, [here](#).

You requested:

- *The number of people who breached their sentence of community work over the past five years (January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2020), broken down by year, and region.*

The table below shows the number of people who had charges laid relating to a breach of their Community Work sentence between 2015/16 and 2019/20, broken down by year, and region. Corrections reports this information by financial year, being 30 June to 1 July. As such, the parameters of your request have been adjusted accordingly.

Financial Year	Northern Region	Central Region	Lower North Region	Southern Region	Total
2015/16	3,514	1,898	2,102	1,659	9,173
2016/17	3,086	1,735	2,043	1,577	8,441
2017/18	3,169	1,782	1,677	1,451	8,079
2018/19	2,879	1,746	1,639	1,321	7,585
2019/20	1,888	1,452	1,178	931	5,449
Total	14,536	8,613	8,639	6,939	38,727

A decrease in breaches during the 2019/20 financial year can be attributed to COVID-19 restrictions. Community Work was suspended at Alert Levels 4 and 3. Community Corrections sites nationwide progressively reopened following the transition to Alert Level 2.

- *The number of people who breached their sentence of community work over the five-year period more than once, broken down by year, and region.*

Community Work sentences are mobile, often performed across different sites, areas and regions. Sentenced hours are frequently combined by way of cumulative, concurrent or overlapping Community Work sentences. Further, attendance may be balanced against individuals' employment and family responsibilities and individuals may complete Community Work hours across more than one site or region throughout the duration of their sentence.

The table below shows the number of people who breached their sentence of Community Work on two or more occasions. Please note, some individuals may be counted more than once per year, per region if they have completed a sentence of community work in one region and performed hours of work towards a different sentence in another region, and have breached each sentence more than once.

Financial Year	Northern Region	Central Region	Lower North Region	Southern Region
2015/16	1,032	450	514	326
2016/17	912	319	413	262
2017/18	1,011	372	251	218
2018/19	978	360	222	169
2019/20	397	181	99	89
Total	4,330	1,682	1,499	1,064

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

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



Topia Rameka
Deputy Chief Executive, Māori