

14 February 2022

C145886/C145887

S 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe S 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your emails of 24 December 2021 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about the notification process for victims as well as information about the job description for the probation officer role. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

Does the Prison system let the victims know once the guilty person has been released from Jail?

Especially when a person who has been released can seek revenge and attempt to locate the victim. What protections are there for victims?

The Victim Notification Register (VNR) gives victims of serious crime, who are registered on the VNR, a way to stay informed about the person who offended against them.

Under the Victims' Rights Act 2002, a person may be eligible to receive notifications if:

- they have been a victim of a sexual offence or a serious assault
- the offence resulted in serious injury to a person, in the death of a person or in a person becoming incapable; or
- they have been the victim of an offence of another kind, and that has led to you having ongoing fears, on reasonable grounds, for your physical safety or security, or for the physical safety or security of one or more members of your immediate family

Once a victim has applied, the New Zealand Police determine a victim's eligibility under the Victims' Rights Act, to be on the VNR, Police then send the approved form to Corrections.

Corrections is then responsible for notifying victims about offenders who are:

- held in prison (includes offenders remanded in custody)
- on home detention

- released from prison on court-imposed release conditions
- released on parole
- serving an extended supervision order

By registering with the VNR, a victim's location will be considered when the person they've registered against proposes a release address in the community or requests a change of address before they complete their sentence.

If the person proposes to live at the victim's address or an address close to the victim, the Victim Notification staff will raise the proposed address as a concern and in most instances, that address will not be approved.

If a victim chooses to not register on the VNR or is not eligible to register on the VNR, they are encouraged to make contact with New Zealand Police if they have any concerns for their safety.

Victim Support is a non-government organisation that provides 24-hour support, advocacy and information to people affected by crime and trauma. Victim support acts as an advocate for victims' rights and works closely with Police in assisting victims. Further information can be found here: victimsupport.org.nz/

You have also requested:

Probation Officer and copy of a full job description.

Also, duties and tasks they do that aren't mentioned on the standard Job Description.

The job description you have requested is attached.

Corrections does not maintain an exhaustive list of duties and tasks that may be performed by a probation officer, as there may be some variations of tasks depending on the region and the site. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing it to be held by, or more closely connected with, the functions of another agency.

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. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brydie Raethel', written over a horizontal line.

Brydie Raethel
Principal Adviser Ministerial Services
People and Capability