

09 November 2022

C160275

S 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe S 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 30 October 2022 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about assaults on staff at various prisons. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

*Incident reports into assaults on staff by prisoners at Rimutaka, Arohata and Auckland prisons and Auckland Women's Prison since January 2018.*

On 1 November 2022, you clarified that by 'Auckland prisons' you were requesting information about all prisons in the Auckland region, therefore your request now covers the following sites:

- Auckland Prison
- Mt Eden Corrections Facility
- Auckland South Corrections Facility
- Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility
- Arohata Prison; and
- Rimutaka Prison.

From 1 January 2018 to 31 October 2022, there have been 1,989 incidents where a person in prison has assaulted a member of staff. It will require a substantial amount of research and resources to assess these incident reports for potential release under the OIA.

Therefore, this part of your request is declined under 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

As per section 18B of the OIA, we have sought clarification on the number of sites your request covers. You may wish to reduce the scope of your request so it may not involve substantial collation. For example, you can reduce the time period your request covers, the number of sites or the category of assaults.

For context, prison-based assault incidents are categorised as follows:

- No injury – victim subjected to physical violence that did not result in physical injuries or require any form of medical treatment (e.g. kicking, shoving, jostling, striking, or punching that did not result in injury);
- Non-serious – victim subjected to physical violence that resulted in physical injuries that may have required medical treatment, and/or overnight hospitalisation as part of initial assessment or medical observation but not on-going medical treatment (e.g. blood nose, x-ray required, cuts requiring minimal stitches, gouging, or bites); and
- Serious – an act of physical violence that involves one or more of the following: bodily harm requiring medical intervention by medical staff followed by overnight hospitalisation (beyond initial assessment or medical observation) in a medical facility; bodily harm requiring extended periods of ongoing medical intervention; or sexual assault of any form where Police charges have been laid.

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



Matt Huddleston  
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People and Capability