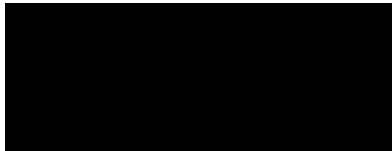


13 February 2023

C163832



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 10 January 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about Electronic Monitoring equipment. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

In November 2021, Corrections announced a new contract with UK-based company Buddi for electronic monitoring equipment. This new contract will provide far greater coverage across New Zealand as the new device utilises the cellular network more effectively allowing for greater coverage, and will mean more equitable access for people who live in an area previously assessed as unsuitable for electronic monitoring. Corrections began transitioning to Buddi equipment from February 2022, with the transition completed in August 2022.

You requested:

- 1. Annually, over the last five years, how many people wearing monitoring bracelets have been taken into custody as a result of information, or lack thereof (if the bracelet is tampered with or fails to charge), derived from monitoring bracelets?*
- 2. Over that period (annually, over the last five years) how many of these instances have been found to be instigated by issues or faults with the bracelets function?*

The above requests are refused in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as the requested information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. The requested information will in the most part be held on an individual person's file. To collate this information, thousands of files will need to be reviewed to extract this information.

In accordance with section 18A and 18B of the OIA we have considered whether fixing a charge, extending the time limit or asking you to refine or amend your request would enable us to provide a response. If you are able to refine your request to a specific time period or other key search words, we may be able to consider your request further.

3. *What does Corrections believe are the causes of the bracelet issues leading to incorrect reports of breaches?*
4. *What pieces of monitoring bracelet equipment have been identified as being problematic and how many such bracelets, or their accompanying equipment, are currently in use?*
5. *What is being done to address these issues?*

Following this matter Corrections looked into what occurred. No fault was found with the electronic monitoring equipment, but was due to the person not charging the equipment properly.

Corrections does not currently consider any of the Buddi monitoring equipment to be problematic. Therefore, this request is refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

In accordance with section 18B of the OIA we have considered whether consulting with you to enable the request to be made in a form that would remove the reason for refusal. However, we do not consider that the request can be refined in this instance as your request is specific, but the information does not exist.

6. *When did these bracelets or pieces of monitoring equipment begin use in New Zealand and when did Corrections become aware of malfunctions relating to these bracelets having the potential for false reports of breaches?*

Corrections contract with Buddi was signed in November 2021 and the transition to their equipment began in February 2022.

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



Alexandra Donnison
Principal Adviser Ministerial Services
People and Capability