



16 May 2019

C107136

Kate McIntyre
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Tēnā koe Ms McIntyre

Thank you for your email of 12 April 2019, requesting information about prison visits and visitor applications. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Visits by whānau and friends are important to help prisoners maintain family and social relationships, and positive family support increases a prisoner's chance of successfully reintegrating into the community when they are released.

Prison visitors must apply to be an approved visitor of a prisoner. This includes all children under 18 years of age. People who want to visit must first fill out a visitor application form, which is followed by security checks.

Visits must be booked in advance. Visiting hours vary across all prisons, and generally depend on which unit the prisoner is in. In some circumstances, special visits can be arranged, for example, family visiting from overseas or due to the bereavement of a loved one.

You have requested:

- 1. The total number of prison visits per annum, as far back as records permit.*
- 2. The total number of prison visits per annum broken down by facility, as far back as records permit.*

Corrections started collating data relating to the number of prison visits in 2000. The information you have requested is provided as Appendix One.

3. *The total number of visitor applications per annum, as far back as records permit. Please break this down by outcome of applications (i.e. successful, declined, etc.).*

Corrections changed the way it recorded this data in 2007. Therefore we are only able to provide data for the period 2008 to 2018. This is attached as Appendix Two.

4. *The total number of people currently registered as approved visitors.*

The information you request does not currently exist in a form that can be readily supplied to you, and would instead require initiation of a project to extract, analyse and present the data in the form requested.

Therefore, this part of your request is declined under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing it is held by another agency or is more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

Please note the Ombudsman has advised that information is not considered to be held by an agency in instances where a request necessitates research or analysis of source data in order to generate fresh information in a form different from that in which the base data is held.

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.

Ngā mihi nui



Rachel Leota
National Commissioner

Appendix One – Number of prison visits between 2000 and 2018

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Arohata Prison	674	1,441	1,469	1,344	2,139	2,286	2,057	1,837	1,570
Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility							1,612	4,986	4,352
Christchurch Women's Prison	887	1,454	1,782	1,753	2,001	2,415	1,892	1,826	1,943
Mt Eden Women's Prison	174	791	658	702	888	1,074	877		
Auckland Central Remand Prison	973	871	830	1,149	1,289	2,202	7,057		
Auckland Prison	7,987	8,132	9,152	10,371	11,172	14,119	17,482	10,320	11,371
Christchurch Prison	6,625	15,358	17,870	17,546	17,656	19,939	18,397	18,606	17,487
Dunedin Prison	189	942	1,500	1,331	1,318	1,250	1,538	621	
Hawkes Bay Prison	4,443	7,109	7,683	8,270	9,483	11,021	10,146	9,723	8,913
Invercargill Prison	421	1,188	2,400	2,942	3,252	3,709	3,745	3,561	1,726
Manawatu Prison	3,904	4,618	6,105	7,688	8,122	7,543	7,857	7,525	8,583
Mt Eden Corrections Facility									
Mt Eden Men's Prison	1,595	1,984	2,372	2,910	3,002	5,956	12,843	10,444	13,106
New Plymouth Prison	1,077	2,255	3,307	2,893	2,504	2,907	2,767	3,249	3,703
Northland Region Corrections Facility						3,938	8,025	6,548	5,638
Ohura Prison	288	1,185	1,393	1,363	1,394	842			
Otago Corrections Facility								2,001	4,994
Rimutaka Prison	5,296	10,545	13,281	14,100	14,423	13,292	12,912	11,504	10,190
Rolleston Prison	4,143	7,609	9,272	10,315	12,332	12,263	11,212	7,603	8,465
Spring Hill Corrections Facility								465	9,360
Tongariro Prison	3,082	6,338	7,440	6,701	7,491	7,958	6,832	3,684	2,199
Waikeria Prison	2,633	10,146	10,414	11,407	12,850	13,446	13,273	9,376	8,839
Wellington Prison	331	799	1,647	1,788	1,518	1,658	1,825	718	511
Whanganui Prison	1,945	4,712	5,517	6,152	5,477	7,822	6,884	5,927	6,074
Grand Total	46,667	87,477	104,092	110,725	118,311	135,640	149,233	120,524	129,024

Appendix One – Number of prison visits between 2000 and 2018 (continued)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Arohata Prison	1,567	2,358	2,272	1,627	892	944	1,023	1,440	1,412	1521
Auckland Region Womens Corrections Facility	4,845	4,329	5,047	3,117	3,562	5,986	6,967	7,605	9,353	8,825
Christchurch Womens Prison	1,992	2,401	1,503	1,281	1,503	1,614	1,593	2,351	3,026	3,441
Mt Eden Womens Prison										
Auckland Central Remand Prison	NR	1,612	379							
Auckland Prison	11,844	12,601	9,723	8,318	8,365	9,689	8,710	6,868	8,388	7,739
Christchurch Prison	17,871	11,381	10,127	11,092	11,949	11,379	12,955	15,228	17,438	15,757
Dunedin Prison										
Hawkes Bay Prison	7,744	6,867	5,352	5,186	5,381	5,344	5,517	6,142	7,720	7,738
Invercargill Prison	2,260	2,380	2,402	2,898	2,176	2,218	4,008	3,665	3,285	3,031
Manawatu Prison	8,059	7,209	7,266	7,212	6,396	5,825	5,596	5,718	6,585	6,762
Mt Eden Corrections Facility			6,517	15,471	14,111	8,267	7,636	7,643	16,351	15,637
Mt Eden Mens Prison	7,389	60	19							
New Plymouth Prison	3,556	2,776	2,624	2,311	24					
Northland Region Corrections Facility	5,494	2,650	197	118	4,065	4,149	4,457	5,615	2,229	3,722
Ohura Prison										
Otago Corrections Facility	5,326	5,651	5,248	4,902	4,235	4,362	5,178	5,485	7,651	7,189
Rimutaka Prison	11,935	13,270	11,542	12,360	12,687	12,773	13,731	15,207	17,268	14,706
Rolleston Prison	9,921	9,139	6,640	5,268	5,103	5,929	5,119	5,885	5,854	6,077
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	7,512	6,180	10,669	12,927	13,507	14,464	12,363	10,301	11,057	11,42
Tongariro Prison	2,371	2,720	2,470	2,347	3,604	2,817	2,208	1,858	2,077	1,894
Waikeria Prison	10,291	10,453	8,261	7,158	5,801	5,100	5,668	5,005	5,207	6,081
Wellington Prison	486	923	1,217	709						
Whanganui Prison	7,205	7,192	7,188	6,043	6,934	6,326	8,757	11,156	9,076	9,322
Grand Total	127,668	112,152	106,663	110,345	110,295	107,186	111,486	117,172	133,977	130,984

Mt Eden Womens Prison - Closed September 2016
Auckland Region Womens Corrections Facility - Opened August 2006
Auckland Central Remand Prison - Closed April 2011
Dunedin Prison - Closed July 2007
Mt Eden Corrections Facility - Opened May 2011
Mt Eden Mens Prison - Closed May 2011
New Plymouth Prison - Closed January 2013
Northland Region Corrections Facility - Opened April 2005
Ohura Prison - Closed October 2005
Otago Corrections Facility - Opened June 2007
Spring Hill Corrections Facility - Opened November 2007
Wellington Prison - Closed October 2012

Appendix Two – Number and status of visitor applications for the period 2008 to 2018

Application Year	Approved	Declined
2008	31,443	3,442
2009	31,519	2,966
2010	29,291	3,026
2011	22,622	2,235
2012	22,196	2,503
2013	21,495	2,029
2014	21,310	2,092
2015	22,475	1,742
2016	24,969	1,865
2017	24,915	1,438
2018	22,516	1,291