

23 August 2019

C110366

Ti Lamusse
fyi-request-10751-6abc78a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Ti

Thank you for your email of 17 July 2019 to the New Zealand Parole Board, requesting information about breaches of parole. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), and was partially transferred to Corrections on 18 July 2019 for response, pursuant to section 14 of the OIA.

Public safety and reducing re-offending are Corrections' main priorities. In accordance with the Corrections Act 2004, we must make public safety paramount when managing offenders, and administer all sentences in a safe, secure, humane and effective manner. As you may be aware, Corrections does not decide who is in prison and who is released. Parole can only be granted by the Parole Board, which is an independent statutory body.

Release on parole is an opportunity for offenders to reintegrate into the community from prison, while subject to standard and special conditions imposed by the Parole Board that facilitate or promote their rehabilitation or reintegration. The offender's compliance with these conditions is managed by Community Corrections.

Any breach of parole conditions is taken seriously. A range of enforcement sanctions are available, including formal prosecution for breach of conditions. It is then up to the courts to determine whether an offender is guilty of breaching their parole, which can result in imprisonment. Offenders can also be recalled to prison to continue serving their sentence for reasons including presenting an undue risk to the safety of the community, or if further offending has occurred.

As you are aware, the following part of your request was transferred to Corrections:

Please provide me with the total number of breaches of parole conditions per annum, as far back as records permit. Please break this down by ethnicity and gender.

Please find the requested information, namely the number of breaches of parole where the offender has been found guilty, attached as Appendix One. This information is recorded by financial year rather than calendar year. You will note that I have not provided exact numbers of prisoners where less than five prisoners have that offence listed as their most serious. Corrections is statutorily obligated to protect all private information that we hold, including information relating to offenders.

I consider that releasing this information would unreasonably prejudice the privacy of those offenders currently serving a sentence for these offence types. Consequently, this part of your request is declined under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Please note that the 'European' category includes those who identify as New Zealand European. Please also note that all ethnicity information is self-reported by offenders, and is not verified or confirmed by Corrections. Furthermore, offenders are able to identify themselves with multiple ethnicities; the information provided is based on their primary ethnicity.

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 – Breaches of parole conditions where offender has been found guilty of breach per annum, by ethnicity and gender

	European			Māori			Pacific			Other			Not Recorded		
	Male	Female	Indeterminate	Male	Female	Indeterminate	Male	Female	Indeterminate	Male	Female	Indeterminate	Male	Female	Indeterminate
2000/01	25			40	<5		<5						<5		
2001/02	17	<5		47	<5		6								
2002/03	16			44			5			<5					
2003/04	21			62			18								
2004/05	62	<5		128	5		20			<5					
2005/06	62	5		157	8		18	<5							
2006/07	77	<5		183	16		23			5					
2007/08	136	<5		208	17		42	<5							
2008/09	217	5		409	32	<5	76	<5		7			<5		
2009/10	257	9		600	24	5	74	<5		12					
2010/11	235	12		532	56	5	106	5		18					
2011/12	248	17		608	63	<5	91	<5		8	<5				
2012/13	270	12		531	38	9	84			14			<5		
2013/14	190	6	<5	554	36		60			16					
2014/15	163	11		422	37		39		<5	<5					
2015/16	167	19		438	26		63	8		10					
2016/17	159	8		416	21		60	<5		7					
2017/18	147	11		360	40		59			11			<5		
2018/19	184	22		410	26		89	7		6					