

5 September 2019

C110654

Andrew Crow  
[fyi-request-10824-0bdbfdb9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10824-0bdbfdb9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Crow

Thank you for your email of 26 July 2019, requesting information about air travel. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

1. *Total number of airline tickets purchased in 18/19 financial year.*
2. *Breakdown by domestic vs international.*

Corrections is the largest core government department, with around 10,000 staff based across sites from Northland to Invercargill, with a number of our operations running 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A total of 16,391 airline tickets were purchased for staff travel in the 2018/19 financial year. Of these tickets, 16,216 were for domestic travel and 175 for international travel.

3. *Any internal plans to reduce airline travel.*

Corrections recognises that we have a responsibility to the taxpayer to manage funds and expenses prudently. Therefore, one of the overarching principles of Corrections' travel policy is that "Travel should be seen as a last resort and other methods of achieving the Department's business should be considered as alternatives". Corrections makes every attempt to adhere to this principle and actively promotes the use of Audio-Visual Link (AVL) and conference phone capabilities. However, sometimes the nature of our work requires us to respond to situations directly, and travel enables us to achieve this outcome.

Corrections is also committed to reducing its impact on the environment by encouraging the least environmentally damaging methods of travel. Furthermore, staff are encouraged to consider whether they need to travel, whether the distance involved can be reduced, the size of any rental car to be used, the ability to share transport with other staff, and whether public transport is feasible.

*4. Job titles of the top 5 travellers.*

The job titles of the Corrections employees who engaged in the most air travel in the 2018/19 financial year are:

- Lower North Regional Adviser
- Programme Director
- Custodial Adviser
- Southern Regional Commissioner
- Site Liaison, Integration and Construction Adviser

Please note that these job titles are not necessarily attributable to one individual. Moreover, staff who are utilising air travel may be acting in other capacities when they do so, if they are temporarily seconded to other roles.

*5. Any other information that would help the public understand the departments use of airline travel.*

Corrections is currently in the early stages of planning to approach the new All of Government Travel Management Services (AoG TMS) panel contract to select a travel management partner. One of the key objectives which the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has built into the AoG TMS contract is that TMS providers are to help agencies to reduce their travel expenditure by 10 percent in year one, and a further five percent in years two and three.

The main area in which TMS providers will be able to influence this objective will be in the provision of smarter booking technologies, helping agencies to review and establish new ways of booking travel (such as a self-booking approach), and actively encouraging more efficient and effective booking (such as by booking earlier). Corrections intends to enter into a partnership with one of the AoG TMS providers to help transform how we book travel, with the objective being to achieve the outcome of reducing our travel expenditure.

Please note that we have interpreted your request to refer to staff travel; Corrections does also occasionally transport prisoners by plane. However, the justice sector has increased the use of AVL between courts and prisons, enabling some prisoners to 'virtually' attend court hearings without leaving prison.

This means that fewer prisoners need to be transported to and from court, reducing costs and environmental impact, allowing for the more productive use of staff time, and increasing public safety by eliminating the associated risks. Corrections' use of air travel to service prisoners' court requirements has been drastically reduced since the introduction of the court AVL system.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Robertson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Robertson  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Finance, Property & Technology