

28 August 2019

C111363

Natasha Verney
fyi-request-10944-e9e2215b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Verney

Thank you for your email of 9 August 2019 to the Ministry of Justice, requesting information about recidivism rates and rehabilitation programmes available to prisoners prior to release. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Public safety is Corrections' top priority, and while someone is in prison, we do as much as we can to reduce the likelihood of them coming back. In 2017/18 we spent around \$200 million on rehabilitation and reintegration services, supporting offenders to address their offending and alcohol or drug issues, as well as encouraging them to engage in education and training and prepare for employment and life in the community.

In the 2017/18 financial year:

- 7,710 rehabilitation and motivational programme places were delivered to prisoners;
- 1,469 prisoners received intensive literacy and numeracy support;
- 3,173 qualifications were achieved by prisoners while in prison;
- 1,068 prisoners completed intensive alcohol and drug treatment programmes; and
- 7,439 prisoner referrals were made to reintegration service providers to help offenders find sustainable employment, accommodation and connect with whanau and community support.

You requested:

1. *Records of all New Zealand recidivism rates for all adult offenders within two years of release.*

This information is available in Corrections' Annual Reports, which are available on our website at: https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic_reports/annual-reports.html. In the 2017/18 Annual Report, which is the most recent published to date, information about 12-month and 24-month recidivism rates are available in Appendix Two: Recidivism Index, pages 164 to 167. The 2018/19 Annual Report will be published in the coming months. Therefore, your request is declined under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information requested is publicly available, or will soon be publicly available.

2. *Any possible information surrounding currently active reintegration/rehabilitation programs offered for offenders pre-release. This may contain drug and alcohol rehab programs, education programs, or any other program that may aid in the reintegration process once an offender is released. This information could be briefs, summaries, statistics or any other document pertaining to information of this kind.*

This information is also available in Corrections' Annual Reports. A list of the rehabilitation programmes offered by Corrections is available at pages 61 to 62 of the 2017/18 Annual Report. Accordingly, this part of your request is also declined under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information requested is publicly available, or will soon be publicly available.

If, after reviewing the information in the Annual Reports, you have any further specific questions, you are welcome to submit a further request under the OIA by emailing us at info@corrections.govt.nz.

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



Richard Waggott
Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Service Development