

Hon Kelvin Davis

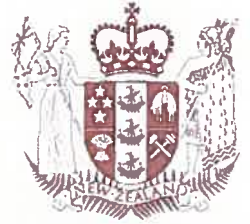
MP for Te Tai Tokerau

Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Minister of Corrections

Minister of Tourism

Associate Minister of Education



BAW Russell

fyi-request-12891-1e99df43@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr. Russell

I refer to your email of 26 May 2020, requesting information regarding advice I have received in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic in my role as Minister of Corrections.

Your request has been considered in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You have asked for:

1. all advice you have received relating to COVID-19 within your responsibility as Minister of Corrections.

I have identified 12 briefings and Aides Memoire received prior to 27 May 2020 which fall within the scope of your request, as follows:

- B4011 – Proposed legislative amendment to section 139 of the Corrections Act 2004
- B4012 – Waikeria PPP – creation of tagged contingency to manage COVID-related impacts
- B4014 – Support available for people being released from prison in COVID-19 Alert Level 4
- B4015 – COVID-19 funding approach
- B4016 – Impact analysis for proposed legislative amendment to section 139 of the Corrections Act 2004
- B4017 – Update on returning offenders in the COVID-19 context
- B4021 – Vote Corrections: Addition to the Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations 2019/20
- B4023 – Aide Memoire: Community engagement for Housing & Support Services programme
- B4024 – Minimum entitlements – one hour of physical exercise
- B4006 – measures to mitigate the risks posed by COVID-19
- B4008 – Request to issue Epidemic Management Notices to ensure the Parole Board can make decisions and community sentences can be administered effectively
- B4009 – Measure to mitigate the risks posed by COVID-19: Update 2

As you might be aware, the Office of the Prime Minister has recently issued a directive that all advice received by Ministers related to COVID-19 be proactively released. A number of documents have been released to date, at www.uniteforrecovery.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/legislation-and-key-documents/proactive-release/.

The remainder of the documents listed above are scheduled to be published within the next tranche of proactive releases. Therefore, release of these documents is declined under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information requested is publicly available, or will soon be publicly available.

I have also received COVID-19 related updates via my Weekly Report and verbal updates from officials. Under section 16(e) of the OIA, where the information requested by any person is comprised in a document, that information may be made available by giving an excerpt or summary of the contents. Accordingly, please see the attached document which contains excerpts of relevant information I have received via my Weekly Report since 16 January 2020.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. If you have any concerns with this response you may raise them with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin Davis', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kelvin Davis
Minister of Corrections

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 11 June 2020

Waikeria Prison Development Programme

Contractor negotiations related to COVID-19 impacts

Corrections has entered into a standstill agreement with Cornerstone Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and CPB Contractors. Under the contract provisions, the contract could have been terminated by either party 40 days after the COVID-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown commenced on 25 March 2020. This agreement enables the rights of the parties to be preserved until 10 July 2020 while engagement continues on a commercial settlement for the COVID-19 impacts. The standstill agreement demonstrates the commitment of all parties to continuing negotiations.

COVID-19 Key Stats and Screening Outcomes

This section updates you on the Critical Health and Safety Risk (COVID-19) as at 11 June 2020.

COVID-19 Key Stats			
Metric		Total	± Since Last Reported
Staff	Self Isolation	74	-11
	Awaiting Testing	11	-8
	Negative Test	220	11
	Positive Test	3	0
Prisoner	Negative Screen	4255	314
	Awaiting Testing	6	-16
	Negative Test	244	28
	Positive Test	1	0

COVID-19 Prisoner Screening Outcomes						
	Negative Screen	Negative Test	Positive Swab Result	Refused	Awaiting Testing	Total
Arohata Prison	69	10				79
Auckland Prison	129					129
Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility	289	33	1			323
Auckland South Corrections Facility	143	2				145
Christchurch Men's Prison	370	7				377
Christchurch Women's Prison	53	5				58
Hawkes Bay Regional Prison	227	30		3	2	262
Invercargill Prison	62	5				67
Manawatu Prison	142	2		1		145
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	1009	68		1	2	1080
Northland Region Corrections Facility	341	2				343
Otago Corrections Facility	94	9				103
Rimutaka Prison	307	28		1	2	338
Rolleston Prison	24	1				25
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	351	24				375

Tongariro Prison	48	1				49
Waikeria Prison	441	5		2		448
Whanganui Prison	156	12				168
Total	4255	244	1	8	6	4514

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 4 June 2020 COVID-19 Key Stats and Screening Outcomes

This section updates you on the Critical Health and Safety Risk (COVID-19) as at 4 June 2020.

COVID-19 Key Stats			
Metric		± Since Last Reported	Total
Staff	Self Isolation	-3	85
	Awaiting Testing	0	19
	Negative Test	2	209
	Positive Test	0	3
Prisoner	Negative Screen	305	3941
	Awaiting Testing	10	22
	Negative Test	10	216
	Positive Test	0	1

COVID-19 Prisoner Screening Outcomes						
	Negative Screen	Negative Test	Positive Swab Result	Refused	Awaiting Testing	Total
Arohata Prison	62	9				71
Auckland Prison	118					118
Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility	259	26	1		5	291
Auckland South Correctional Facility	132	2				134
Christchurch Men's Prison	350	7				357
Christchurch Women's Prison	49	2			3	54
Hawkes Bay Regional Prison	209	28		3		240
Invercargill Prison	59	5				64
Manawatu Prison	126	1		1	1	129
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	936	65		1	5	1007
Northland Region Corrections Facility	316	2				318
Otago Corrections Facility	89	9				98
Rimutaka Prison	293	21		1	5	320
Rolleston Prison	21	1				22
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	330	22			3	355
Tongariro Prison	42					42
Waikeria Prison	401	5		2		408
Whanganui Prison	149	11				160
Total	3941	216	1	8	22	4188

Completion Rate for Driving Change in Canterbury

The 'Driving Change', impaired-driving programme in Canterbury has been delivered over Zoom and phone during COVID-19 restrictions, with all 31 participants completing the programme.

The community programme, run by Odyssey House Christchurch, targets drink and/or drug drivers and is usually delivered at service centres. The Alcohol & Other Drug Assessment & Treatment Service (ADAS) team were determined to continue delivering services despite COVID-19 restrictions.

"Sometimes being forced to make changes in the way we work produces unexpectedly positive results", says Service Manager Julie Downard, "and having a 100% completion rate is an outstanding result. It turns out most people on sentence in the community have smartphones or computers and can easily access the app - and removing the transport barrier made a real difference too."

ADAS Team Leader Claire Eder noted that making the shift to Zoom has been positive for participants and has shown that Corrections can deliver this programme in a new way.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 28 May 2020

Recent Release of Justice Sector Prison Population Projections 2019 – 2029

On 27 May 2020 the Justice Sector Prison Population Projections 2019 – 2029 (JSP 2019) were released by the Ministry of Justice. JSP 2019 has been incorporated into the capacity and population chart on page 12 of this report, replacing data from JSP 2018. A summary of the key changes and assumptions behind the new projections is offered below:

The 2019 – 2029 Prison Population Projection does not consider the impact of COVID-19

- The 2019 Prison Population Projection was completed in late 2019 with the intention to publish in March 2020. This was delayed due to the activation of New Zealand COVID-19 Alert level 4.
- As with any forward-looking projection, there is inherent uncertainty as it is dependent on the assessment of trends and assumptions made at the time of the projection.
- There is analysis now underway by the Ministry of Justice to understand the short and medium-term impacts from COVID-19 on the justice system. This analysis will be incorporated into the 2020 Prison Projection to provide a better understanding of the current state of the justice system.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 21 May 2020

Upgrade to visits system

In response to the Ministry of Health requiring all businesses to collect information to support them with COVID-19 contact tracing, we are upgrading our APPE (Approved Provider Prison Entry) system on 1 June 2020. The system's functionality will be expanded to include recording the details of more people that enter our prison sites, such as private and legal visitors. This upgrade will allow us to easily and quickly report on who was onsite at any given time for contact tracing.

The upgrade will also provide additional privacy protections for individuals visiting our sites from 1 June 2020, including:

- Recording details electronically will remove the risk that subsequent visitors see others' details previously recorded (the current process involves visitors providing their personal details manually in a hand-written register).
- The secure storage opportunities in APPE are preferable to holding a hard-copy register.

Corrections and Canterbury Police Health Initiative

A new partnership between Corrections and Canterbury Police is reaping benefits for health and wellbeing for prisoners, Police and Corrections custody staff, and their whānau. The initiative builds on the close partnership between the two organisations in the region and came about as Corrections developed strategies to reduce the risks of COVID-19 entering prisons.

Since 30 March 2020, a registered nurse from Canterbury prisons has been stationed at the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Precinct Custody Suite. The registered nurse works alongside Police in the suite, screening detainees remanded by the court into Corrections' custody. They complete a screening and assessment on every detainee including taking their temperature and conducting a short interview to check risk factors. The screening takes place just outside the custody suite in order to limit any potential COVID-19 infection entering the suite.

This triage system means Corrections can be provided with this information prior to the arrival of a prisoner in Corrections' custody. This can greatly reduce the chances of infected people being admitted and means Corrections can be prepared for the health needs of new arrivals. Anyone with signs of illness is transported by Police to prison and treated through a 14-day separation and special COVID-19 health and safety protocols at the site.

"The Corrections nurses very quickly identified an opportunity to work in partnership with Police by conducting the screenings that Police were doing of new arrivals," says Pete Stills, Officer in Charge of Police Custody in Christchurch. "The nurses were better equipped and trained to perform this role and they started with a can-do attitude and a willingness to work in partnership with all the other organisations sharing the custody suite."

"While it is our COVID-19 response that has brought about this initiative, having a health resource in the custody suite transition point offers great benefits to the community and to our services," says Christchurch Men's Prison Director Jo Harrex.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 7 May 2020

Prisoner TV

As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions on movement, a number of programmes and activities in prisons have temporarily paused, resulting in prisoners being confined to their cells for longer periods and unable to receive visitors. To assist, Corrections has implemented a number of measures aimed at mitigating the impact of the restrictions to positively impact prisoner welfare. One of these measures is the sourcing of additional television content. An assessment was completed to identify what content would be best received by prisoners and, on the basis of this assessment, the decision was made to:

- Remove the Concert FM, Base FM (two radio channels the prisoners can still listen to on their own radio or by purchasing a radio) and HGTV channels (a home improvement channel).
- Add Choice TV (documentaries), Bravo (reality and documentaries) and the Edge TV (music TV).

These changes are being made in the first two weeks of May 2020 to all 17 Department prison sites. Feedback from our first pilot site at Waikeria Prison has been positive.

Waikeria Prison Development Programme

Negotiations with Cornerstone Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and CPB Contractors on the impact of COVID-19 continue. On a 'without prejudice' basis, Corrections has agreed to make an advance payment of between \$5 and \$6 million (net any COVID-19 wage subsidy claimed) to support CPB Contractors, its sub-contractors, and suppliers. The payment will cover unavoidable costs incurred during the Alert Level 4 lockdown and the subsequent period of site remobilisation.

This payment recognises the cost of labour stood down and direct overhead costs such as hiring cranes, diggers, plant, and site office portacomms. This offer of support ensured that staff were retained and organisations were ready to remobilise and commence construction activity quickly following the move to Alert Level 3. The payment is consistent with guidance from the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) in relation to responding to construction contracts at this time.

The Cabinet paper discussing the impact of COVID-19 on the Waikeria Prison development for consideration by the Cabinet Business Committee on 18 May will be finalised this week, and lodged next week.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 30 April 2020

Mental Health Services during COVID-19

Throughout the COVID-19 Alert Levels, all mental health services have continued to be delivered albeit in a modified form. This has ensured the safety of our people in care whilst ensuring Corrections still respond to mental health needs and deliver our essential services.

Delivery of essential mental health services has shifted to a more virtual/telehealth approach as appropriate, with priority given to those in our care who are most in need.

Corrections' contracted Improving Mental Health (IMH) providers have supported new ways of working by adding 0800 lines, equipping staff with cell phones while our National Office Mental Health and IT teams have supported access to patient records through remote access. The Executive Leadership Team have agreed working definitions of "exceptional circumstances" and "strict controls" that align to the Corrections Operational Support plan and will support out clinicians to work safely at this time.

Support for our custodial and health staff is also available. This has particularly been demonstrated in situations where a person in care needs additional support and our staff need skills or resources to facilitate this. This includes the provision of clinical mental health advice by the National Office Mental Health Practice staff when requested.

Waikeria Prison Development Programme

Plans to restart work at the construction site

Contractors CPB and Spartan Construction began site preparations at Waikeria Prison on 24 April 2020 to enable works to restart on 28 April 2020. Corrections has approved a number of plans submitted by CPB to restart work, including a COVID-19 Control Plan and Restart Plan. These documents confirm how activities will be undertaken as part of a phased build-up over eight days to full remobilisation.

To help manage COVID-19 risk at the prison and construction site, a Thermal Image Camera was installed at the vehicle entry control point of the prison to temperature check everyone accessing the prison. This includes all construction personnel accessing the construction site.

Notice of Extension Event

As previously advised, Corrections received a Notice of Extension Event from Cornerstone Infrastructure Partners (CIP) due to supply chain delays from China. Legal advice was sought and we have been advised there is precedent for this in the New Zealand Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

On 24 April 2020, Corrections issued a letter to CIP detailing our intention to provide CIP and their sub-contractor supply chain with interim payments for unavoidable costs from midnight on 25 March 2020 through to full site remobilisation on 6 May 2020. The letter also outlines Corrections' expectations on the level of information required to approve each claim.

We will continue to provide further updates on the impact to the programme relating to COVID-19.

Hōkai Nuku in a COVID-19 environment

Corrections' COVID-19 response has helped with determining organisational priorities in terms of immediate essential activity, and the opportunity to review initiatives that will keep the organisation moving in line with Hōkai Nuku. In some instances, our response to COVID-19 has identified innovations to the way we work that have sped up initiatives identified in Hōkai Nuku. COVID-19 has offered us a valuable opportunity to strengthen our commitment to our purpose - kotahi ano te kaupapa, ko te oranga o te iwi - and to demonstrate manaakitanga to our workforce, the people in our care and wider whānau.

Innovation and teamwork at Tai Aroha Residential Programme

The Tai Aroha Residential Programme team went the extra mile to provide for the men in their care during the Alert Level 4 restrictions. The Tai Aroha whare continues to provide a safe and consistent environment for residents to work towards their rehabilitation and reintegration goals, despite the significant barriers posed by current circumstances.

The safety of staff and residents remain paramount during this time, and as a result everyone agreed to suspend the practices of hongi and handshaking to assist with social distancing. Tai Aroha staff have kept the residents up to date and involved in decision-making processes, giving them a sense of ownership and responsibility to establish a 'new normal'.

Although whānau visits have had to be cancelled in the short term, residents are being allowed extra phone time to maintain contact with their loved ones. Treatment groups are currently facilitated remotely, with therapists sitting in a separate room to the participants, being able to provide input where required. Staff have additionally developed a plan to allow therapists to have confidential individual phone sessions with each resident. Staff are also sourcing exercise equipment for the residents to use while they are restricted in order to look after their physical health.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 23 April 2020

Moving forward with Hokāi Nuku and Health Services

Work on Hokāi Nuku has continued while New Zealand is subject to Alert Level 4 restrictions. On Wednesday 22 April 2020, the first of two virtual workshops will explore the strategic context of Health Services and Hokāi Rangi in relation to the delivery of health services. A second workshop is to be held next week that will delve into the purpose, values and design principles for Health Services and Hokāi Rangi. It will also verify what the strategic intent looks

like and means for Corrections' health services team and test its alignment to Hokāi Rangi. Both these workshops are considered to be crucial foundational blocks to contribute to the development of a co-designed health plan. This will assist Corrections in delivering an appropriate kaupapa Māori health service underpinned by a kaupapa Māori model of care and new ways of working within Health Services across Corrections.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 16 April 2020

Corrections Mental Health Services: Summary of COVID-19 Plans

Mental Health Services are essential services for New Zealand, as determined by the Ministry of Health, and therefore for people managed by Corrections. Corrections has service continuity plans in place across the continuum of mental health provision, across all COVID-19 Alert Levels, and is incorporating additional support where available from our psychology and programmes staff. At this stage, all Corrections health services in prisons are currently operational, under a shifting mode of delivery, as required under Alert Level 4 restrictions.

The stepped care model of Mental Health Services in Corrections comprises primary mental health care responses and guidance to custodial staff, through to Forensic Speciality Services provided via District Health Boards at a regional level. Mental Health Services provided to people in our care include the Improving Mental Health Services and the specialist Intervention and Support Practice teams, which operate at three pilot sites; Christchurch Men's Prison, Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility and Auckland Prison.

Mental Health Services will continue throughout COVID-19 restrictions, with a reduced face-to-face component, shifting the mode of delivery to telehealth and remote support approaches as required. All mental health services will be delivered in different ways due to clinicians' availability and to ensure the health and safety of the people in our care and our health staff is prioritised.

Improving Mental Health Services

Corrections' contracted NGO providers and Primary Health Organisations have demonstrated flexibility and responsiveness to work under a shifting mode of service delivery as required. Where possible, providers are working from a Corrections facility base, either within the prisons, outside the wire, or coming onto the site on request if safe to do so. Where this is not possible, telehealth options are being utilised.

Intervention and Support Practice Teams (ISPT)

The Intervention and Support Practice Teams were originally established as multi-disciplinary teams with a focus on self-harm and suicide. These services are expanding to encompass a wider range of mental health issues as resources allow. The Intervention and Support Practice Teams will continue on-site by rotation (to maintain distance in small offices) and provide interventions and support to people in our care as needs require. The focus will be on services to those people in our care who are acutely unwell or in the greatest need (i.e. require a response within 24 hours and those within the Intervention and Support Units).

Support will also be provided to people under the care of forensics teams when they are unable to attend on-site but referrals remain in place for those who are acutely unwell. Remote support is being enabled for staff who are off-site.

Regional Forensic Mental Health Services

Regional Forensic Mental Health Services continue to provide support to the most acutely mentally unwell people in Corrections' care. These essential services will focus on responding to new referrals who present with acute and complex needs, limiting face to face interactions,

unless the environment is safe to do so. They will remain responsive to urgent and emerging situations including deployment to prison as required.

The process for referrals under Section 45 of the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992, which involves a request by the Prison Director for assessment of unwell people in our care, remains as business as usual at all alert levels. People in Corrections' care will continue to be admitted to in-patient care in forensic setting if required. Ongoing treatment and support to people being cared for by forensic services currently will be provided through a collaborative approach and liaison with health centre and mental health staff (where applicable) on-site.

Support to Custody & Health staff

Throughout COVID-19 Alert Levels there is a need to provide a service to people in our care and to offer support to all Corrections' staff with the emotional impact of the current situation. National Office Mental Health Team staff are available to provide guidance/supervision, support and practical resources to health and custodial staff working in prisons, in particular those staff working in with unwell prisoners and prisoners in Intervention and Support Units.

The National Office Mental Health team has also collaborated with the Corrections' Staff Welfare Team to provide additional support and guidance should mental health service navigation or additional advice be requested.

Education Activity Book Created

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, an education activity book has been developed for prisoners while access to usual education programmes and interventions are suspended.

Activities are varied to cater to a range of literacy levels and include puzzles such as Sudoku, word finders, quizzes and brain teasers, as well as step-by-step drawing tutorials, Te Reo Māori, creative writing and health and wellbeing resources. The Activity book is produced weekly with around 6,800 copies being distributed to all 18 prison sites each week.

During this time, Corrections' education staff have also been contributing to a bank of smaller shared education resources. A 'Brain Bites' repository of individual activity worksheets are available to all staff and can be printed within prisons and distributed as required.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 9 April 2020

Vulnerable Patients Identified

The National Office Health Team have finalised the collection of data on vulnerable patients and have identified those people in our care who may be at a greater risk if they were to contract COVID-19. There are daily reporting processes for monitoring the COVID-19 screening of all new prisoners when received, including the safe management of those who could potentially have COVID-19. Both pieces of work are contributing to Corrections' approach to managing COVID-19 at Alert Level 4 status.

Upgrade to GPS Trackers for Electronic Monitoring

Corrections currently only uses one cellular network provider (Vodafone 2G) for electronic monitoring. This is because the current v3.9 GPS tracker used by Corrections is equipped with a 2G modem and Vodafone remains the only provider of a 2G network in New Zealand. This network provides good geographical coverage, however the technology to support it is being phased out globally. To keep up with advances in technology, Corrections is working with its electronic monitoring supplier to implement a phased rollout of its next generation TD4i trackers, which are used in a number of other jurisdictions.

The ability of TD4i trackers to utilise both 2G and 3G cellular communications across New Zealand's three current providers, Vodafone, Spark and 2Degrees, is expected to increase geographical coverage and enable more people to serve an electronically monitored sentence. The rollout is expected to start in April 2020. All stock of the GPS trackers currently used by Corrections will be held by the supplier in New Zealand as contingency for COVID-19 and Business Continuity responses.

Waikeria Development Programme

The project team are working with Cornerstone Infrastructure Partners (CIP) to ensure that all possible mitigations are being pursued to minimise the impacts of the Alert Level 4 restrictions and to assess what a re-start may look like under lower alert level restrictions.

However, it is clear that there will be programme and cost implications for the Waikeria Prison Development as a result of pausing the project.

Regular meetings with Treasury and Infrastructure Commission officials are occurring. A briefing paper on the project's status will be provided to you shortly seeking approval for a paper to be submitted to the Cabinet Business Committee.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 2 April 2020

Modular Build Programme

In accordance with the Government's further clarification of essential services/restrictions to combat the spread of COVID-19, construction work is suspended at the modular sites until further notice, with the exception of one mostly completed unit at Rolleston Prison. Commissioning work will continue on that unit to bring it into service as soon as possible.

Other activities such as the securing, auditing, testing and review of modular works will continue as essential services, as will off-site activities including management and planning, design, financial, commercial and legal.

Strengthening Health Services

Given the unprecedented situation we face with Covid-19, additional resources are being provided to strengthen health services within Corrections.

In order to help our health services navigate this complex situation, a senior health leadership team has been set up to oversee operational delivery. The team consists of a National Operations Director and four Regional Operations Directors. The group will establish clinical governance and provide a direct line of sight through reporting and structural oversight.

To ensure the immediate needs of the field, we have filled the four Regional Operations Directors role and the National Operations Director role with secondees. These five secondees are experienced leaders and health practitioners and commenced in the roles on Monday, 30 March 2020.

As well as the creation of these new roles, the existing Business Solutions function has been renamed Health Solutions and will report directly to the DCE Health. This team has a critical role in data analytics, improving oversight of data and assurance and will support the senior health leadership team.

Two advisory roles, Chief Māori Health Adviser and Chief Medical Adviser have been created that will also report directly to the DCE Health.

A briefing is being prepared that further outlines these changes.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 26 March 2020

Modular Build Programme

Corrections has confirmed with all contractors and consultants working on the Modular Build Programme that the Government considers completion of the units to be an essential service. The Modular Build Programme should continue under the Level 4 Alert being implemented to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Mail Reporting

The Centralised Mail team and the Unwanted Mail teams are being suspended and redeployed to assist with providing essential functions in Corrections' response to COVID-19 Level 4 Alert. These teams will reconvene when the alert level is reduced sufficiently.

Waikeria Mental Health & Addiction Service

The Waikeria Mental Health and Addiction Service (WMHAS) project has continued to work with mana whenua to develop the cultural foundation for the service. Recently, this has included a hui with Te Rau Ora on 20 March 2020 (led by Ngāti Maniapoto) and two hui with Raukawa Settlement Trust leadership (20 and 24 March 2020). We will spend the next week planning how the foundation and detailed pathway design for the service can continue to be progressed the use of technology.

The WMHAS is mobilising project team members to support Corrections' COVID-19 response on an as needed basis.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 19 March 2020

Waikeria Development Programme

Corrections has received a Notice of Extension due to COVID-19 from Cornerstone Infrastructure Partners (CIP) due to supply chain delays from China. The impact of these delays is currently unknown.

CIP is now working on a mitigation strategy, including requesting Corrections' consent for an Advance Material Payment mechanism. This mechanism would enable the consortium to release funds early to their building sub-contractor to be used to incentivise suppliers to prioritise their deliveries. Corrections has sought legal advice and is advised that there is precedent for this in the New Zealand Public-Private Partnership model.

We will continue to provide you with updates on the impact to the programme relating to COVID-19.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 5 March 2020

COVID-19 coronavirus updates to staff and operational planning

Information is being sent daily to staff, updating them on the best actions to take to protect themselves and others from infectious disease (including COVID-19 coronavirus).

Corrections' Public Affairs team has developed posters to help staff and managers understand what actions they are required to take: one regarding whether to come to work after international travel, and another to remind people that washing hands thoroughly is the best protection against infectious disease.

These pieces of collateral are now being used by other agencies including the Ministry of Justice, Oranga Tamariki, and MBIE, and are being shared with the State Services Commission.

The Emergency Management and Tactical Response Group has also been working on operational response plans for COVID-19 for around six weeks. All sites have been asked to review their Business Continuity Plans and ensure their staff are familiar with the contents.

Minister of Corrections Weekly Update – 30 January 2020

Corrections' response to Coronavirus outbreak

Corrections is closely monitoring the information and advice provided to government agencies by the Ministry of Health. While there are currently no confirmed cases in New Zealand, we take the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and the people we are managing very seriously, and work is underway to ensure Corrections is ready for any potential outbreak of the disease in New Zealand or within our sites.

Response planning for an infectious disease outbreak is being lead by Juanita Ryan, Deputy Chief Executive - Health. An operations planning working group consisting of several Corrections' teams has been established. An Operational Readiness Plan is being developed. Work is underway to establish medical stock supply levels and establish a re-ordering process.