

30 November 2020

C127479

Equal Justice Project
fyi-request-13952-742d34d0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 11 October 2020, requesting information about returning offenders. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections is committed to providing support to people who return to New Zealand and are monitored under the Returning Offenders (Management and Information) Act 2015. Not all people who are deported to New Zealand will become subject to this Act. Corrections only holds information about people we manage under a Returning Offender Order in accordance with this legislation.

Community Corrections staff manage people who are subject to a range of community-based sentences or orders in accordance with conditions imposed by the Court or New Zealand Parole Board, including people subject to a Returning Offenders Order. Individuals subject to Returning Offender Order are managed in a similar way to those released from prison on parole, and this includes regular contact with their Probation Officer. Returning offenders are automatically subject to standard conditions, which mirror those set out in section 14 of the Parole Act 2002. Special conditions based on the information received from foreign authorities, are variable and relate to specific risks and rehabilitative needs presented by the individual.

Community Corrections staff complete a needs assessment when a person subject to a Returning Offenders Order arrives in New Zealand, including establishing whether accommodation arrangements have been put in place by the jurisdiction they returned from. We work alongside other agencies including Customs, New Zealand Police, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health to support people on Returning Offender Orders in their reintegration. Corrections also supports reintegration for these individuals via contracts with support services such as the Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Society (PARS) and the Salvation Army. Individuals are also referred to programmes they require, such as Community Alcohol and Drug Services programmes, in accordance with their conditions.

For more information about Returning Offenders Orders, please refer to the following link:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/community_sentences/sentences_and_orders/returning_offenders_order

You requested:

- *The number of deportees on a yearly basis that have been deported to NZ since the Returning Offenders (Management and Information) Act 2015 was introduced; and*
- *The number of deportees who have been subject to or are still subject to Corrections oversight on a yearly basis.*

We have interpreted your request as the number of deportees that have been deported to New Zealand and started a Returning Offender Order from 2015/16 to September 2020. The table below provides:

- the total number of individuals who commenced a Returning Offenders Order each financial year
- the total number of deportees subject to a Returning Offenders Order throughout each financial year. If an individual was subject to a Returning Offenders Order during more than one financial year, they will be counted more than once.

Note that the number of people who commenced a Returning Offenders Order declined in 2019/20 due to border restrictions related to COVID-19.

| Financial Year | Total who commenced a ROO | Total who were subject to a ROO |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2015-2016 | 196 | 196 |
| 2016-2017 | 255 | 430 |
| 2017-2018 | 324 | 565 |
| 2018-2019 | 304 | 598 |
| 2019-2020 | 199 | 498 |
| YTD 2020 | 84 | 306 |

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them 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