

24 March 2021

C130473

Ti Lamusse
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Tēnā koe Ti

Thank you for your email of 15 January 2021, requesting information about Kaiwhakamana in prisons. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Kaiwhakamana are kaumatua and kuia who are approved prison visitors. They have access to any prison in the country during normal visiting hours and may also visit at any reasonable time outside these hours by arrangement with prison management, for example during tangihanga (bereavements).

Kaiwhakamana have access to prisons so they can support people in prisons. This may include:

- informing people about whakapapa and tikanga;
- helping people to establish and maintain contact with their iwi, hapu and wider whanau;
- assisting people with whānau relationships;
- providing spiritual support and guidance;
- assisting people with personal and business matters;
- helping people return to the community with the appropriate reintegration support in place.

Corrections also facilitates access to people in prison for Fautua Pasifika. They are Pacific Community Leaders who have access to prisons to enable the well-being of people in prison and networking back to their communities. Fautua Pasifika is intended to be applied to those peoples of Pacific descent who have been promoted by their communities as cultural advocates. They act in a capacity similar to Kaiwhakamana.

With reference to the national register for Kaiwhakamana, referred to in Prison Operations Manual policy, you requested:

The name, gender, contact phone number, email address and iwi / hapū / whanau / organisation affiliations of each registered Kaiwhakamana

Please find attached as Appendix One the approval date of all Kaiwhakamana and Fautua Pasifika registered with Corrections as at 28 January 2021.

Corrections relies on prisons around New Zealand to consistently and accurately report information about Kaiwhakamana and Fautua Pasifika into a national register. While efforts are made to keep this register up to date, some people may still be listed who are no longer practicing Kaiwhakamana or Fautua Pasifika. There is also potential for duplication within the register for administrative reasons, such as Corrections staff from more than one prison providing details to staff based at National Office for the same person to be added to the register.

Corrections' national register does not include individuals' phone numbers, gender, hapu, whanau or organisation affiliations. Iwi affiliation also is not required to be recorded with each registration. Rather, this is voluntarily reported. Therefore, not every Kaiwhakamana will have an iwi listed. Fautua Pasifika may not have an iwi affiliation. These parts of your request are declined under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

Corrections is unable to release the names and email addresses for all registered Kaiwhakamana or Fautua Pasifika as doing so would breach their privacy. These parts of your request are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. As per section 9(1) of the OIA, we have considered whether there are countervailing public interest considerations favouring the release of the requested information. We do not believe such considerations are present in this case.

The total number of Kaiwhakamana, broken down by prison

As mentioned, Kaiwhakamana have access to any prison in the country. Some Kaiwhakamana will visit just one prison, while others will visit multiple prisons. Our records are not broken down by prison. These parts of your request are declined under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.


The total number of Kaiwhakamana visits, broken down by prison and year

Please find the requested information attached as Appendix Two for the financial years 2015/16 until 2019/20. The information relates to all 17 prisons managed by Corrections. It does not include Auckland South Corrections Facility, which is managed by Serco, not Corrections.

You will note differences in the number of recorded visits between prisons, with some sites recording very few visits. Some regions have more active Kaiwhakamana than other regions, which results in some prisons receiving more Kaiwhakamana visits. Furthermore, as noted above, these records rely on prisons around New Zealand to consistently and accurately report information into a central database. Unfortunately, the data collection for visits has not been consistent across the prison estate. As such, this information cannot be considered complete but is provided to the best of Corrections' ability.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Topia Rameka
Deputy Chief Executive Māori