

19 August 2022

C154814

Connor Johnson

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Tēnā koe Connor

Thank you for your email of 15 July 2022 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about policies regarding use of control and restraint devices. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Safety and wellbeing are Corrections' top priorities. Our staff are trained to work with some of New Zealand's most dangerous and volatile people in a complex and challenging environment, where assaults by people in prison are often spontaneous and come without any warning. Over 80 per cent of the prison population have convictions for violence in their offending histories, and more than 91 per cent meet the criteria for a lifetime diagnosis of a mental health or substance abuse disorder.

You requested:

1) ALL internal Guidelines or policies regarding to the use of Control and restraint devices such as but not limited to: Handcuffs, Pepper spray.

Please find the guidelines and policies relating to handcuffs, pepper spray and spit hoods attached as:

- Appendix One – Tactical Operations Manual of Guidance (pages 33 to 55)
- Appendix Two – Facilitators Guide – Tactical Training Instructors Guide

Section M.04 of the Prison Operations Manual (POM) outlines the use of restraints for escorts/transfers and is publicly available here on our website at:

[https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Movement/M.04-External-movement-transportation-of-prisoners/M.04.02-Use-of-restraints-for-escorts-transfers.](https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Movement/M.04-External-movement-transportation-of-prisoners/M.04.02-Use-of-restraints-for-escorts-transfers)

Mechanical Restraints and Pepper Spray policy from the Custodial Practice Manual is already publicly available here on our website at:

[https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/custodial-practice-manual-cpm.](https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/custodial-practice-manual-cpm)

Further information about pepper spray can be found here on our website at:

[https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/information_brochures/pepper_spray.](https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/information_brochures/pepper_spray)

Some information has been withheld as it is not considered within scope of your request. This includes administrative material.

2) All Guidelines or Internal policies regarding Prisoners that have attempted/threatend or successfully committed suicide and self harm.

Please find the above guidelines and policies attached as:

- Appendix Three – Incident response guidelines

The relevant section of POM (Section M.05) is publicly available here on our website at: https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Movement/M.01-Movements-internal,-directed-and-specified

You can find out more about deaths in custody, and how Corrections prevents suicide and self-harm at the below links on our website at:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/our_work/prison_sentences/managing_offenders/deaths_in_custody and https://www.corrections.govt.nz/our_work/prison_sentences/managing_offenders/preventing_suicide_and_self_harm

Corrections has statutory obligations under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased natural persons. Therefore, some information has been withheld accordingly.

In accordance with section 9(1) of the OIA, we have also considered whether there are countervailing public interest considerations favouring the release of the requested information, such as transparency. We do not believe such considerations are present in this case.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response 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



Ben Clark
National Commissioner