

23 August 2023

C171535

Erika Whittome

fyi-request-23706-e0e49c3b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Erika

Thank you for your email of 5 August 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about staff terminated due to their vaccination status. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

I understand the government vaccination mandates were dropped sometime around Sept 2022 with the revoking of certain C19 orders by the State.

What number of staff did you terminate or place on any form of "extended leave" due to your vaccination mandates around Nov/Dec 2021 and Jan 2022? Please also share the total headcount as of 15 Nov 2021 and today (when you answer this OIA).

Eighty people were terminated in the requested time period, where 'Vaccination Status' is stated as their termination reason.

The total number of staff employed at Corrections on 15 November 2021 was 10,352. As at 15 August 2023 there are 10,231 people employed. Please note, the number of staff employed by Corrections fluctuates on a daily basis due to new hires, resignations, retirements, and terminations.

Unfortunately, Corrections are unable to provide data on "extended leave" *due to vaccination mandates*. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

As per Section 18B we have considered whether consulting with you would enable the request to be made in a form that would remove the reason for the refusal. However, we do not consider that the request can be refined in this instance.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nic Barkley', written in a cursive style.

Nic Barkley
Manager Ministerial Services
People and Capability