



09 March 2015

C70268

Sina Brown-Davis
fyi-request-2482-646d8a66@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Brown-Davis

Thank you for your email dated 7 February 2015, requesting information about offenders being locked down at Auckland Prison on Friday 6 February 2015. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Public safety and reducing re-offending are the ultimate goals for the Department of Corrections. In accordance with the Corrections Act 2004, we must make public safety paramount when managing offenders, and administer all sentences in a safe, secure, humane and effective manner. All prisons are operated in accordance with New Zealand legislation and having regard for other agreements, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

I can confirm that prisoners housed in A (Alpha) Block at Auckland Prison were on lockdown on 6 February 2015. It is not uncommon for units within the East Division of the prison to be subject to a lockdown from time to time in response to operational and safety requirements. I am advised that most prisoners were locked up between 11.30am on Friday 6 February and 8am on Saturday 7 February 2015. However, some prisoners were unlocked during this period to assist with meal duties and other activities where required. I can also confirm that prisoners were offered their minimum entitlements including outside yard time in the morning. This is in line with the Prison Operations Manual (POM), New Zealand legislation and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

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

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Lightfoot
National Commissioner