



27 March 2015

C70798

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

Dear Ms Brown-Davis

Thank you for your email dated 10 March 2015, requesting information about 'operational and safety requirements' referred to within correspondence from the Department dated 9 March 2015. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As stated with our earlier response, a prison can be placed on lockdown for operational and safety requirements. Safety matters are instances where the safety of prisoners, staff and visitors are compromised, and where there is the need to minimise the risk to those parties. This could be in instances such as a prisoner assault or if contraband is found. Operational matters are cases where there is a low number of staff due to illness or staff training, or if a prisoner death occurs.

The lockdown that occurred on 6 February 2015 affected all prisoners within A (Alpha) block. I can confirm there was no difference in the way prisoners of different security classifications were managed during the lockdown. As highlighted in our previous response, some prisoners were unlocked during this period to assist with meal duties and other activities where required.

You have also requested confirmation on whether information provided in the Department's earlier response of 9 March 2015 was provided by line management or prison inspectors. Each OIA request received by the Department is assessed on its own merits, taking into account the subject matter and who the matter relates to. In this particular case, your request related to day-to-day operations at Auckland Prison, and therefore, information was sought from staff at Auckland Prison.

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