

22 January 2025

C190346

fyi-request-29408-d1b16cb5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 2 December 2024 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about people who have been deported. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The Returning Offenders (Management and Information) Act 2015 came into effect in December 2015. Under this Act, a person can be subject to a returning offender order (ROO) which requires them to be managed by Corrections on their return. Corrections does not determine who is subject to a ROO. This decision is made by the Police Commissioner, and an application for an order for special conditions is made by Corrections to Court in order to manage the deportee.

Where a person is subject to a ROO, Corrections has a record of their status if they are subsequently imprisoned. Deportees who are not eligible for a ROO are not managed by Corrections.

Corrections staff are part of the multi-agency contingent that meets returning offenders on their arrival in the country. We work alongside Customs, Police, MSD, Health and reintegration support people to ensure returning offenders understand what is required of them under their ROO and tell them where they can get help to resettle here.

Further information which may be of interest to you is available on our website and annual report here:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/community_sentences/sentences_and_orders/returning_offenders_order
https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/strategic_reports/annual-reports/annual_report_202324

You requested:

how many 501s are currently on romi orders or police databases or currently incarcerated

The term 501 refers to the number of a particular section of the Australian Migration Act 1958 under which some people are deported from Australia. Not all deportees from Australia have been deported under section 501. Not everyone who returns to New Zealand

and is made subject to a ROO is from Australia. In addition, not all people who have been deported are subject to Corrections' supervision. Corrections is therefore not able to provide information on all deportees. The data we are providing therefore relates to everyone subject to a ROO, not just those who have returned from Australia.

As of 4 December 2024, 201 people were subject to a ROO.

In addition, as of 4 December 2024, 243 people who have been subject to a ROO are in custody. Of these, 116 are sentenced prisoners and the other 127 are in prison on remand.

Regarding the part of your request which asks about Police databases, we have consulted with Police who advised they hold information relating to all deportees from Australia since 2015. Generic statistics about this is publicly available on their website here:

<https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publications-statistics/data-and-statistics/policedatanz>

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly, or as otherwise determined.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Luke McMahon', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Luke McMahon
Deputy Chief Executive (acting)
Communities, Partnerships and Pathways