



1 June 2016

C77626

Ti Lamusse
fyi-request-3698-cea14e13@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lamusse

Thank you for your email dated 22 April 2016, requesting further information regarding the strip searching of transgender prisoners. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You write in your email, that you believe the Department's response of 22 April 2016 does not address your original request regarding staff members carrying out strip searches on transgender prisoners. As a result you have resubmitted the question "*do male or female officers conducts strip searches on transgender prisoners*"?

The Corrections Regulations 2005 provide guidance on the accommodation of male and female prisoners. If a prisoner is not satisfied with their placement in a male or female prison, they may make an application to the Chief Executive to have their placement reviewed.

For the purposes of strip-searching, prisoners are to be searched by an officer of the same sex as stated within section 94 of the Corrections Act 2004.

A transgender prisoner placed in a men's prison will be searched by male officers and a transgender prisoner placed in a women's prison will be searched by female officers.

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