

20 April 2016

C76661

Sophie Morgan
fyi-request-3700-e78298f3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Morgan

Thank you for your email dated 2 March 2016, requesting information about the sexual health of prisoners. 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 prison facilities are operated in accordance with New Zealand legislation and based on other agreements, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

You have asked five questions in relation to prisoners' sexual health. I will be responding to your questions in the order you have asked them.

- 1. Are condoms ('prophylactics') available on prisoner request in all New Zealand prisons?*
- 2. Are condoms available for all prisoners, regardless of the security of the unit or facility they are placed in?*
- 3. If condoms are not available at all times, how often are they made available to prisoners?*
- 4. If condoms are made available to prisoners, are they free of cost?*

I can confirm that prophylactics are available to all prisoners at all prison sites, from the Health Centre. These are provided at no cost to the prisoner. However, they are provided following an appointment with a registered nurse or Prison Doctor.

5. *What are the specific prison regulations around consensual sexual intercourse between inmates in prisons?*

Although sexual behavior between prisoners is not encouraged, the Department supports prisoners to have access to prophylactics. This is a harm minimisation initiative and Health Services play a key role.

The Department does not have 'policy guidelines' regarding sexual behavior between prisoners. Therefore, this part of your request is declined under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jeremy Lightfoot', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Jeremy Lightfoot
National Commissioner