



07 July 2016

C78594

Mark Hanna
fyi-request-4169-a8a72531@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Hanna

Thank you for your email dated 22 June 2016, requesting further information about the Department's strip search instructions. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The Custodial Practice Manual is a document designed to ensure the Department's front line staff are consistently performing their basic duties to the highest standard. It is primarily a reference tool to assist in enforcing the guidelines which underpin the professional, safe and secure management of the New Zealand prison system.

As it is a working reference guide which may be used by thousands of staff nationwide, the document contains a significant amount of information on operational matters and as such cannot be released in its entirety, therefore your request is declined in accordance with Section 6(c) of the OIA, as the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

Please find attached the strip search document you requested. The Department has withheld the instructions on how our staff should conduct a strip search under Section 6(c) of the Act as it would prejudice the maintenance of the law. However you will note that we rigorously adhere to Section 90 of the Corrections Act 2004, which outlines the definition of a strip search.

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

Rachel Leota
Deputy Chief Executive (Acting)
Corporate Services



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STRIP SEARCH

A strip search means a search where the person conducting the search may require the person being searched to remove, raise, lower or open all or any of their clothing.

The person being searched may be required to do all or any of the following:

- open his or her mouth
- display the palms of his or her hands
- display the soles of his or her feet
- lift or rub his or her hair
- raise his or her arms to expose his or her armpits
- with his or her legs spread apart, bend his or her knees until his or her buttocks are adjacent to his or her heels
- lift or raise any part of his or her body (including, for example, rolls of fat, genitalia and breasts).

When conducting a strip search:

A large, white, sans-serif font text 'S6(c)' is centered on a solid black rectangular background.



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DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS
MARA POUTAMA ROTAROA