



07 July 2016

C78609

Mark Hanna
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Dear Mr Hanna

Thank you for your email dated 22 June 2016, requesting information about the Department of Corrections use of force procedure. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The Department uses an intervention strategy known as Control and Restraint (C&R) in regards to the use of force. It is designed to be utilised as a last resort measure in the event that all other avenues to resolve the situation have been exhausted. The strategy can also be employed for stopping prisoner escapes and preventing attempts of self harm. Our public website has a general section on our use of force policy which details how, when and who gives authority for force to be used, and also the process to follow once an incident has been deemed resolved and the prisoner and staff members are safe and secure. Within the context of strip searches, as each use of force incident is recorded on a register at each prison, the Department would need to consult with each site to determine what incidents were strip search related.

The following link provides access to the specific section about use of force on our public website for your information;
http://www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/prison_sentences/managing_offenders/use_of_force.html.

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