

11 July 2016

C78617

Ti Lamusse  
fyi-request-4176-9d5c6826@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ti

Thank you for your email dated 22 June 2016, requesting information about staff training for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) prisoners. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

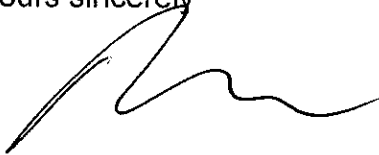
The Department of Corrections does not have training specifically for LGBTI prisoners. Our training courses support the engagement, motivation, privacy, safety and rehabilitation of any person within our care in a fair and consistent manner. However, several sessions for staff do include topics about transgender prisoners amongst the overall programme. For example, in our Effective Working Relationships workshop, discussion is often raised as to the best approach to maintain and enhance a suitable working relationship with a transgender prisoner. Staff understanding and knowledge to overcome personal and professional bias in the workplace in our Managing Bias training scheme has allowed our staff to gain a more comprehensive and deeper understanding of the LGBTI community in prisons.

We also provide continual structured development to new and existing corrections officers after their initial training courses are completed, so as to constantly refresh and enhance their skills and knowledge in maintaining a safe and secure environment for their colleagues, prisoners and visitors.

As there are no specific documents relating to staff training for LGBTI prisoners, your request is declined under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, 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 read 'Rachel Leota', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rachel Leota  
Deputy Chief Executive(Acting)  
Corporate Services