



30 June 2016

C78715

Ti Lamusse

fyi-request-4189-540c57c1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ti

Thank you for your email dated 28 June 2016, requesting a copy of the report into the Spring Hill Corrections Facility riot in 2013. 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.

In order to prevent incidents from occurring we proactively manage prisoners and role model positive law-abiding behaviour; our staff are trained in de-escalation techniques, interpersonal skills and tactical communication. We work hard to provide offenders with every possible opportunity to change their anti-social behaviours and improve their chances of leading a crime-free life following release from prison. On the rare occasion that a serious incident does occur, we draw on our experience and professionalism to resolve the situation quickly, safely and effectively.

Offenders are held accountable for their actions, and the Department treats any attempt to create disorder in a prison with the utmost seriousness. This type of behaviour is not tolerated and prisoners involved in such an incident may face internal sanctions or be charged by the Police for criminal offences.

As you may be aware, the riot was a very serious event. However, at no point was the safety of the public at risk. We are extremely proud of the efforts of our staff, who worked in difficult circumstances to bring the situation under control; their quick thinking and brave actions saved the lives of a large number of prisoners who were not involved in the incident. We are also very grateful for the excellent support and assistance that we received from our partner agencies.

You requested a copy of the full report on the inquiry into the SHCF riot. The full report cannot be released as it contains security information relating to the prison infrastructure and tactics used by the Department when responding to emergency situations. We are also concerned that release of these types of reports would hinder the flow of information for future inquiries. It is important that such investigations are conducted in a way that encourages frank examination of all aspects of an incident. As a result, the report is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

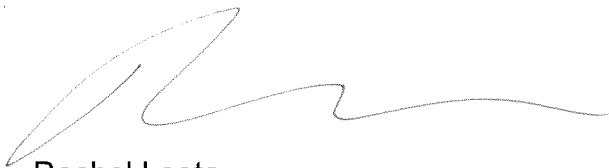
- Section 6(c) - as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.
- Section 9(2)(ba)(i) - as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

We have prepared a summary of the report in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, which provides that where the information requested by any person is comprised in a document, that information may be made available by giving an excerpt or summary of the contents. A copy of the summary is available on our website via the link below:

http://www.corrections.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2014_media_releases/inquiry_finds_prison_riot_well_managed.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