

21 April 2017

C84551

Ti Lamusse
fyi-request-5599-99fabd18@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ti Lamusse

Thank you for your email of 22 March 2017, in which you request information related to recommendations made as part of a Death in Custody report dated 6 January 2015. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As you will be aware, the Death in Custody Report referenced in your request made seven specific recommendations, six of which were accepted. At the time that the Death in Custody Report was published, the Department had commenced or completed remedial action on all six of the accepted recommendations.

In your email, you specified two recommendations pertinent to the information you requested. For the purpose of completeness, I have included these recommendations and the Department's initial response to these below.

- *'Corrections Services consider the matter of Directed Segregation to establish whether the practice of full 14 day segregation for prisoners on initial segregation is widespread nationally and how the management of such prisoners is reviewed/recorded.'*

A review of the Directed Segregation process is currently in progress and this recommendation will be added to the scope of this review. A significant amount of work is involved in the review of Directed Segregation and as such this is expected to be completed by December 2015.'

- *'Corrections Services consider the issue of Directed Segregation to establish whether the practice of denying association for prisoners on initial segregation is widespread nationally and how the management of prisoners who are denied the ability to associate with others is reviewed/recorded.'*

As above, this recommendation will also be included in the scope of the Directed Segregation Review.'

The information you requested on 22 March 2017 is directly related to the Directed Segregation Review referred to above. I have included your request and the Department's response below.

- *'Please provide me with the report/findings of Corrections' review/investigation of the use of directed segregation[...]*

The review that was undertaken, involved an environmental scan of the Prison Operations Manual (POM) sections related to the segregation of prisoners and specific segregation directions. This review showed that the segregation process used at the time of the Death in Custody Report reflected appropriate legislation. Opportunities for improvement were, however, identified and included the simplification of documents, the improved utilisation of existing IT tools, and the streamlining of procedure.

As you will appreciate, it is important that any changes the Department undertakes are safe, secure and conducive to a healthy prison environment. In order to ensure that any proposed outcomes are properly consulted on, we must maintain the confidentiality of the information until such a time that a release of this information would not adversely impact the consultation process.

Therefore, your request is declined under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

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



Vincent Arbuckle
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Services