

27 June 2017

C86446

Joshua Smith
fyi-request-5985-f614cc00@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for your email of 9 June 2017, requesting information related to reintegration services offered by the Department. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Public safety is the Department's number one priority. We manage offenders to ensure they comply with their sentences and orders, thereby minimising their risk of harm to others. We also work to reduce re-offending by providing offenders with rehabilitation programmes, education and job training that assist them in leading an offence free life on the completion of their sentence.

Our rehabilitation programmes work. We assess the effectiveness of our programmes and interventions using the Rehabilitation Quotient (RQ). This measures the extent to which re-offending is reduced in participants in a rehabilitative intervention when compared to similar offenders (matched according to a range of risk-related factors) who do not participate in intervention.

The RQ for the Department's rehabilitation programmes and interventions shows a reduction in reconviction and reimprisonment rates. This data can be found in the Department's Annual Report using the link below:
http://public2013.corrections.govt.nz/2013old/resources/strategic_reports/annual-reports/annual_report_201516

Reintegration services build on Corrections' rehabilitative programmes, and are accessible to remand and sentenced prisoners, and community-based offenders. Through these services, we work to enable and support the successful transition of offenders back into the community.

Key areas of focus for reintegration services may include employment, accommodation, education and training, skills for life and oraanga, and family, whanau and community relationships. Support may involve family, community groups, counsellors and Corrections staff.

In line with our ongoing commitment to reduce re-offending, Corrections continues to invest significantly in interventions for offenders in New Zealand. In our 2015/16 annual report, we reported that we spent \$176.3 million on rehabilitative and reintegrative services, which accounted for 13 percent of our total budget. This represents an increase of over \$7 million from 2014/15.

Corrections' increased investment in rehabilitative and reintegrative services has enabled more prisoners to participate in these programmes. For example, during 2015/16 the overall number of rehabilitation interventions delivered to offenders was above 18,000, well in excess of the target of 9,691. This is also considerably higher than the 5,500 interventions that were delivered during 2007/08.

Public safety is our bottom line. At all times, the Department balances rehabilitation and reintegration efforts against the risk offenders may pose.

You asked:

'Could you please advise the amount of spending from you that is used to help former prisoners with [reintegration] into society once they have finished their [sentence] or been granted parole.'

The Department regularly reports on our total spend on services related to reintegration. Accordingly, you may find the requested information in our response to question 136 of Corrections' Law and Order Committee Annual Review for 2015/16:

https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/51SCLO_EVI_00DBSCH_ANR_71372_1_A546979/f4c8399f32de11c549545166ad767432f1b92b9d

Your request is, therefore, declined under section 18(d) as the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

You may find it helpful to note that our response to question 135 of this same review provides the number of offenders that have participated in reintegration programmes.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge your concern that Corrections is not doing enough to assist prisoners with their return into the community, and assure you that the successful reintegration of offenders is of paramount importance. We remain committed to helping offenders turn their lives around and make positive contributions to their communities.

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 'V. Arbuckle', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Vincent Arbuckle
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Services