

16 August 2017

C87392

Ti Lamusse  
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Dear Ti

Thank you for your email of 18 July 2017, requesting a copy of a review on the management of at-risk prisoners. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

In October 2016, the Department began a project *Transforming the Management of At-Risk prisoners*. The project recognised that prisoners considered to be 'at-risk' have widely differing needs and contemplates a plan for the appropriate management of these prisoners.

You have asked for a copy of a review titled: *Transforming the Management of At-Risk prisoners*, results of its findings, as well as policies proposed as a result of the review, and all advice provided to the Chief Executive relating to the review. As above, this is the name of a project currently under development by the Department to investigate changes in how we manage prisoners who are at risk of self harm and suicide.

No particular review into the management of at-risk prisoners exists in the manner in which you have requested. Unfortunately, I must therefore decline your request for this document in accordance with 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. Please find an outline the budget bid initiative below for your reference.

The Department intends to release a literature review in relation to this project in the coming months within our Practice Journal. This will be available on our website.

While I am unable to provide you with the document you have requested, I can provide an outline of a recent budget bid initiative, for which the Department received funding, that is a part of the project in transforming the way we manage at-risk prisoners.

The Department of Corrections has committed to transforming the way we manage prisoners who are at-risk of self harm and suicide. In Budget 2017, Corrections received \$11.6 million over the next four years to develop the new 'whole of prison' model of care for at-risk prisoners. We will design and implement the model at three sites:

- Auckland Prison;
- Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility; and
- Christchurch Men's Prison.


The model will primarily be delivered by new multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) comprising psychologists, occupational therapists, mental health clinicians, social workers and cultural workers. It will involve:

- Improved screening and assessment tools;
- Transforming existing At-Risk Units into specialised Intervention and Support Units (ISUs) including physical enhancements to soften the look and feel of the units;
- Therapeutic intervention and support plans from prisoners in ISUs, including increased support to transition back into the wider prison environment; and
- Intervention and support plans for at-risk prisoners who can be accommodated in mainstream units.

Budget 2017 funding enables us to deliver the model of care at three sites initially, we intend to design a national service that can be tested and then delivered to additional sites in the future. The new model will disrupt a pathway of escalating prisoner mental health issues, which can have significant flow on effects for the prisoners, their families/whanau, our staff, and wider society.

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



Richard Waggott  
Acting Deputy Chief Executive  
Corporate Services