

28 August 2017

C87708

Daniel Pickering
fyi-request-6311-7becf744@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Pickering

Thank you for your email of 30 July 2017, requesting information about reports produced by the Office of the Ombudsman under the Crimes of Torture Act 1989 (COTA). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You have requested all reports produced by the Office of the Ombudsman under its COTA authority in 2015. Please note that the Department can only respond to your request in so far as it relates to reports provided to the Department. You will be aware that the Office of the Ombudsman is responsible for overseeing many places of detention, including prisons, health and disability places of detention, immigration detention facilities, and child care and protection residences. The Department only receives COTA reports in relation to Department run places of detention.

As a result of a large number of requests for COTA reports over recent months, the Department has determined that it would be appropriate to publish these reports on our website. We have identified 38 COTA reports to be released and we are in the process of preparing these for publication. It is expected all 38 of these COTA reports will be published in the near future.

I confirm that three reports were received by the Department in 2015. One report, relating to Arohata Prison is available on the Department's website: http://www.corrections.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2016_media_releases/corrections_releases_cota_reports.html

We will be publishing the remaining two reports on our website in the near future. As we will be publishing these reports on our website, your request is declined under section 18(e) of the OIA, because the information will soon be publicly available.

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 'Richard Waggott', written in a cursive style.

Richard Waggott
Deputy Chief Executive (Acting)
Corporate Services