

26 October 2017

C88812

Sam Clarke
fyi-request-6516-f3f4e038@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Sam Clarke,

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2017, requesting information about the Department of Corrections' environmental policy. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections recognises the importance of environmental sustainability, and consistently meets its obligations and regulatory commitments relating to land and environmental issues. This includes:

- taking a 'whole of life' approach when procuring goods and services;
- minimising waste sent to landfill;
- using resources, including energy and water, more efficiently; and,
- improving planning, design and construction when commissioning and operating facilities.

You requested information about Corrections' environmental policy, specifically in relation to the 'Sustainable Development Framework' referred to in our 2005/06 Statement of Intent. Each aspect of your request and Corrections' response is included below.

- *Is the Framework still active within the Department?*

Corrections' Sustainable Development Framework was developed in response to the Govt3 and Carbon Neutral Public Service (CNPS) initiatives, which aimed to guide the public service toward sustainability and carbon neutrality.

Since 2008, agencies have absorbed these initiatives as part of day-to-day business. As such, the Sustainable Development Framework is no longer active.

- *Does the Department have any environmental policy or objectives?*

As a government agency, Corrections leads by example in our efforts to improve environmental sustainability. We monitor and report on resource use throughout the country. However, currently there is no centrally driven environmental policy.

Please note there are a variety of initiatives across individual sites to improve environmental management, including:

- comprehensive environmental plans to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements under the Resource Management Act 1991;
- sustainable approaches to managing energy use, green waste/compost, water consumption and recycling grey water for industry activities; and,
- partnerships with waste management companies to improve recycling.

Corrections also works with other agencies and community organisations to provide opportunities for offenders to work on projects to give back to their community which have environmental benefits.

On 6 November 2015, Corrections signed a partnership agreement with the Department of Conservation (DOC) named 'Good to Grow'. This collaboration provides for the increased delivery of low-risk, high-volume work opportunities on conservation sites for offenders on community-based sentences. This initiative assists DOC who manage over 14,529km of walking tracks with regular maintenance, clearance work, as well as work in local reserves which require regular upkeep and small-scale improvement work like tree planting.

By 30 June 2017, offenders have contributed 31,586 hours of work to the 'Good to Grow' initiative. This includes maintenance work on 88km of tracks around New Zealand and weed management on 15 sites.

Offenders have also contributed to the production of conservation products. Approximately 2500 native plants have been grown, while work has also included the creation of picnic tables, translocation boxes, floating bird habitats, weta hotels, fencing panels and bird decoys.

Corrections is looking to further extend this initiative by working closely with iwi and Māori authorities and other community partners such as; Sustainable Coastlines Charities Trust, Reconnecting Northland, Trees that Count and the Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust.

- *The 2006/07 Annual Report indicates the existence of a revised 'Environmental Action Plan', can this be released?*

This part of your request is declined under 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 note that another document, the 'Sustainable Development Plan', may contain the information that you are seeking and can be found in part three of our 2005/06 Statement of Intent.

- *Has there been any further action plans since the revised 2006/07 Environmental Action Plan?*

As noted above, the original document you were seeking could not be found. I can advise that no further action plans have been developed.

- *Do any of the environmental indicators set out in the 2004/5 annual report continue to get measured? (Energy sources used, Renewable energy sources, Environmental Water Total water usage, Water recycling and re-use, Environmental Emissions, Effluents, and Waste Total amount of waste by type and destination, Water sources and habitats affected by discharges)*


Through our contracted Facilities Management provider, Corrections monitors consumption of utilities as part of effective operational and asset management. We continuously measure our use of water, electricity, heating fuels, and Co2 emissions, and review costs and consumption across sites to ensure our facilities are operating effectively. Consumption data is monitored monthly, at a minimum, and not only guides decision-making but also helps us identify issues quickly. Additionally, environmental impact assessments are performed and updated as required as part of our environmental compliance monitoring.

In summary, Corrections continues to monitor all indicators measured in the 2004/05 Annual Report, with the exception of solid waste.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Department of Corrections. 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.

I trust the information provided is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Neil Cherry
Deputy Chief Executive
Finance, Property and Technology