

15 December 2017

C91266

Elisha Lane  
[fyi-request-6925-db4cdcb3@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-6925-db4cdcb3@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Lane

Thank you for your email of 30 November 2017, requesting information about prisoners that have participated in any form of fertility treatment. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Fertility treatment is a broad term which encompasses a number of categories and types of procedure. These include:

- artificial insemination,
- collection of eggs or sperm (including for the purpose of donation),
- freezing ovarian tissue, sperm, eggs, embryos (cryopreservation), and
- IVF, including the collection of sperm, storage of embryos and implantation.

The Department has a statutory obligation under the Corrections Act 2004 to provide a primary health service to prisoners reasonably equivalent to that found in the community.

ACC and the Ministry of Health are responsible for funding secondary and tertiary health care services for prisoners. Secondary health care refers to specialist and hospital services, such as surgery, assessment and maternity services. Tertiary health care refers to treatment that is more complex or of a specific nature, such as heart surgery. Medical Officers working in prisons on contract assess a prisoner's condition and determine whether primary, secondary or tertiary level intervention or treatment is appropriate.

There are no specific legal restrictions preventing the donation of blood, organs or sperm, however Corrections does not facilitate or support prisoners participating in donation of blood, organs or sperm as part of their primary health care requirements.

As with any other health-related activity, in the case of fertility treatments, consideration would be given on a case-by-case basis by the prison director, who is required to ensure the safety and security of all involved.

If a prisoner had participated in fertility treatment, it would be recorded in the prisoner's personal health file. Corrections does not collate or record this information centrally and as such, the information that you request does not currently exist in a form that can be readily supplied to you, and would instead require initiation of a project to extract, analyse and present the data in the form requested.

Therefore, your request is declined under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by the Department, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

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



Gillon Carruthers  
General Manager Public Affairs  
Corporate Services