

28 May 2018

C95340

Mark Hanna
fyi-request-7622-0701b728@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Hanna

Thank you for your email of 16 April 2018, requesting information about the timeliness of responses to Official Information Act requests. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections is New Zealand's largest core government agency, with approximately 9,000 staff managing around 40,000 prisoners and offenders across New Zealand, a budget of around \$1.4 billion and non-current assets of \$2.8 billion, which includes 18 operational prisons and 148 Community Corrections sites.

Corrections takes the statutory obligations of the OIA seriously. As you will note from the published OIA stats on the State Services Commission (SSC) website Corrections timeliness in 2015/16 was 91%, in 2016/17 96.7% and 98.2% for the first half of 2017/18.

You have requested the following information:

From 1 July 2017 to 30 December 2017, broken down by request:

1. *The date on which the request was received.*
2. *The date on which the request was answered.*
 - a. *If the request was answered on the last allowable day, the time at which the request was answered.*
3. *Whether or not the request was extended under section 15A of the OIA.*
 - a. *If the request was extended, the date on which notice of the extension was sent to the requester.*
 - b. *If the notice of extension was sent to the requester on the last allowable day, the time at which the notice of extension was sent to the requester.*
 - c. *If the request was extended, the duration of the extension.*
4. *The outcome of the request (e.g. all information released, transferred to another agency).*

As you are aware, SSC is publishing statistics regarding OIA response times. Statistics for the first six months of the 2017/18 financial year are published on SSC's website: <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/sites/all/files/oia-statistics-tables-jul-dec2017.xlsx>.

Please see below Corrections OIA statistics for the first six months of the 2017/18 financial year:

Date	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Total
Number received	316	368	374	374	382	272	2086
Number sent	284	380	325	326	337	285	1,937
Number on time	281	378	322	321	330	273	1,905
Percentage sent on time	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	96%	98%
Average days	9.9	7.3	7.3	8.9	9.8	12.3	9.1

As you will note, Corrections average response time for OIAs is nine working days, which is within the 20 working day statutory timeframe.

Please note that the total number sent is different to what is reported on SSC's website. This is due to continual maintenance and checking of data. Of the 1,937 OIA requests where a response was sent, 53 were granted an extension of time under section 15 of the OIA. Please see below statistics for OIA responses that were subject to an extension of time:

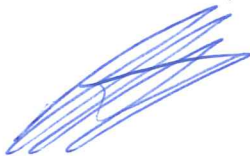
Date	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Total
Number sent	8	3	7	15	8	12	53
Average days	30.5	26.3	34.6	33.3	39.4	38.5	34.8

Please find enclosed an excel spreadsheet of data relating to the 1,937 OIA responses sent by Corrections. Your request for the specific time the response was sent is declined under section 18(f) of the OIA as it would require substantial collation. To provide this information, staff would be required to manually check each corresponding email a response was sent in. In regards to responses sent via post, Corrections will not be able to provide the time of day the response was sent as this is not recorded.

As you state in your request, you wish to be consulted with if section 18(f) was to be used. Corrections does not believe consulting with you would enable a response to be provided for this aspect of your request.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Waggott', is written over a series of horizontal blue lines that serve as a guide for the signature's placement.

Richard Waggott
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Services