



23 July 2018

C98086

Mark Hanna  
[fyi-request-8034-14edebce@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-8034-14edebce@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Hanna

Thank you for your email of 12 July 2018, requesting information about Corrections general correspondence. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You have requested the following information:

*Could you please clarify what "general correspondence", which you've identified as the source of the extra data sent to me originally, covers? Did the Department of Corrections respond to 1,700 messages during this period that didn't request any official information?*

The number of correspondence items that Ministerial Services responds to each year is reported in Corrections Annual Report. Please see page 104 of the 2016/17 Annual Report.

[http://www.corrections.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/898629/Annual\\_Report\\_2016-17.pdf](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/898629/Annual_Report_2016-17.pdf)

As you can see, OIA requests represent just under half of all correspondence the Ministerial Services team manages.

*Does the Department of Corrections have an internal process for extending correspondence due dates similar to the process laid out for requests in the OIA?*

You may be aware that the Privacy Act has the same statutory timeframes for responding to a request as the OIA and also has the same mechanisms for extending the period for responding to a request. In regards to other types of correspondence, while there is no statutory timeframe for a response to be provided, Corrections endeavours to respond to all correspondence in a prompt manner.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Morehu', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Morehu  
Manager Ministerial Services  
Corporate Services