

7 September 2018

C98772

BAW Russell fyi-request-8428-26fc7ee0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Russell

Thank you for your email of 3 August 2018, requesting information regarding Shared Accommodation Cell Risk Assessment (SACRA). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Double bunking has been a long standing option in the New Zealand prison system and has worked well. When we double bunk cells, we also do everything we can to increase the other amenities and resources that are needed, such as additional staff, bathrooms, therapy rooms and activities.

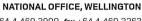
Research has found that many prisoners thought that sharing a cell could help with their literacy skills and provide some support, particularly for young prisoners accommodated together. A separate report into double bunking at Northland Regional Corrections Facility in 2015 found positive effects on prisoner wellbeing including decreased loneliness, increased social and emotional support and reduction in self harm.

Custodial staff use a comprehensive assessment tool called the Shared Accommodation Cell Risk Assessment (SACRA) to enable them to carefully consider relevant information prior to placing two prisoners in a shared cell. This tool helps to inform their decisions and minimise any risk.

The SACRA process is carried out by experienced custodial staff who review the compatibility of both prisoners before making a decision on their placement. Information about the SACRA, as per the Prison Operations Manual, is available on the Department's website via the link below: http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy and legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Induction/I-8.html

1. Total throughput of prisoners

There were 23,657 prisoners received into prisons during the 2017/18 financial year.





2. Total number of prisoners held in shared cells (throughput view)

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

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.

For your information, as at 18 July 2018, a total of 4,304 prisoners were sharing a cell.

- 3. Total number of SACRA assessments undertaken
- 4. Total number of SACRA assessments completed on time

Please see the table below provides number of SACRA assessments completed in the 2017/18 financial year.

Prison	Total	Completed on time	% Completed on time
Arohata Prison	762	623	81.8%
Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility	4,667	4,278	91.7%
Auckland South Corrections Facility	3,137	2,894	92.3%
Christchurch Men's Prison	5,258	4,674	88.9%
Hawke's Bay Regional Prison	2,925	2,239	76.5%
Invercargill Prison	670	606	90.4%
Manawatu Prison	1,114	832	74.7%
Mt Eden Corrections Facility	23,669	22,647	95.7%
Northland Region Corrections Facility	4,688	4,391	93.7%
Otago Corrections Facility	2,888	2,663	92.2%
Rimutaka Prison	5,068	3,618	71.4%
Spring Hill Corrections Facility	6,869	6,397	93.1%
Waikeria Prison	4,927	4,639	94.2%
Whanganui Prison	1,138	946	83.1%
Total	67,780	61,447	90.7%

As described in the SACRA review report, which has been previously released to you, and the Letter to the Chief Custodial Officer from me (Appendix 6), many of these assessments that were described as 'completed late' were completed 'on paper' and within minutes of the electronic cell allocation. In practice, this means the assessment still occurred before the prisoners are physically located in the cell together.

- 5. Total number of times the SACRA assessment indicated the prisoner could be held in a shared cell
- 6. Total number of times the SACRA assessment indicated the prisoner should not be held in a shared cell

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

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.

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

Rachel Leota

National Commissioner