

4 December 2018

C101000

Mr Dellow
fyi-request-8825-470e50b7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Dellow

Thank you for your email of 8 October 2018, requesting information about the housing situation of prisoners before the beginning of their custodial sentence, and their housing situation post release. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Of the 16,000 people released from prison each year, most arrange their own accommodation. Some offenders (such as high risk offenders and those subject to electronic monitoring) must have their accommodation approved by Corrections.

We know that access to stable and suitable accommodation improves health, employment and education outcomes and reduces the likelihood of re-offending. We are also aware that some offenders have difficulties securing accommodation post-release. Public safety is our top priority and the reality is that without accommodation some offenders would be homeless, which would present an unacceptable safety risk to communities.

While the Ministry of Social Development has ultimate responsibility for providing housing for people in need, in recent years Corrections has:

- Increased our investment in accommodation and support services from \$3.8 million in 2016 to over \$7 million per annum.
- Signed a memorandum of understanding with Housing New Zealand, promoting our joint initiatives.
- Worked with Housing NZ to supply four, 3-bedroom state houses in Auckland, for supervised supported living.
- Purchased more supported accommodation from our service providers.
- Announced the Creating Positive Pathways programme in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, which will be rolled out from Auckland in 2018/19 and provide 250 additional public housing places over four years for prisoners with unmet housing needs.

We are continuing to work collaboratively with the Ministry of Social Development to advance the needs of those who qualify on the social housing list, and with Ministry of Health and district health boards to advance the needs of offenders with intellectual disabilities.

In addition, the government has approved an additional \$57 million for housing options to be determined by Housing New Zealand and Corrections to support the release of prisoners who otherwise struggle to achieve appropriate accommodation.

We also contract almost 1,100 emergency, transitional and supported accommodation places nationwide each year, delivered by service providers across the country. Accommodation is mainly in individual one bedroom flats, or in a home-like setting for between two and four people. In 2017/18, Corrections referred 7,439 offenders to reintegration service providers. These providers help offenders to obtain long term sustainable accommodation, and also to find employment, enrol in training courses, maintain their spiritual and personal wellbeing, open a bank account, budget, and connect with whanau and community support.

You have requested:

- 1. Any information held by the department on the housing situation of prisoners before their custodial sentence began and their expected housing situation post-release. I request this information broken down into two categories - those serving their first custodial sentence, and those serving their second or subsequent custodial sentence. I request this information for the period 2013 - 2018 by calendar year.*
- 2. the interview/assessment forms/templates for reception interviews/assessments and pre-release interviews/assessments.*

In regard to your first request, Corrections role is to manage offenders sentenced to prison and offenders who are subject to sentences in the community. All offenders are monitored in accordance with the conditions set by courts and the New Zealand Parole Board. While these conditions may contain restrictions on where an offender may live, Corrections does not keep a centralised record of prisoners' addresses. We also do not record the nature of their housing situation, as this is not considered relevant information for managing an offender's sentence. Therefore, this part of your request is declined under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA as the information is not held by Corrections and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

In terms of your second request, although prisoners are asked for their home address on reception into prison, they are not asked to fill out a form. Their home address is then entered into their personal file. Prior to release, prisoners fill out an R.07 form which asks them for their address and whether they will require transport from prison. Again, this is placed on to a prisoner's personal file and is not recorded centrally. Please find attached the R.07 form for your reference.

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 be 'Richard Waggott', written over a horizontal line.

Richard Waggott
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Services

R.07.Form.02 Address, travel on release

To:

Your estimated date of release is:

This date is tentative and will depend on your continuing good behaviour. It will be confirmed at least 24 hours prior to your release.

If you are on Release to Work, Parole you **MUST** notify your employer if you are leaving their employment and arrange to bring your final pay back with you on the last day of your employment. If you wished to be released before 12 noon you must finish work lunch time on the day prior to your release day bringing your final pay with you to allow time to complete your papers.

Please provide the following information for the Receiving Office and Administration Office.

Delays in returning the completed form will delay your release time

Complete and Return Immediately

- A** My address on release will be:

 - B** I **will / will not** require transport on the day of my release. (transport will be provided to the Court in which you were sentenced).

 - C** Please arrange bookings to:

 - D** My plans for employment on Release are:
-
-

Bookings Once Made Will Not Be Changed