



14 December 2018

C101555

Harry Berger
fyi-request-8947-e81ab38a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Berger

Thank you for your email of 26 October 2018, requesting information about visitor dress codes at Auckland Prison. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The purpose of a visit by a private visitor to a prisoner is to maintain that prisoner's family and social relationships to promote their reintegration into the community upon release. Staff must ensure the appropriate and safe management of visits, while maintaining the security of the prison at all times.

Our staff manage some of New Zealand's most dangerous people in a complex and challenging environment. As you may be aware, Auckland Prison contains New Zealand's only specialist maximum-security prison unit. Prison dress codes are implemented to maintain the safety and security of the prison environment and prevent the introduction of contraband. They are enforced alongside rules around contraband items such as drugs, weapons and gang paraphernalia as part of a comprehensive strategy to keep visitors, staff and prisoners safe.

You have requested:

- *The position responsible for the creation and enforcement of the dress code*
- *The legislation, regulations or decision relied upon to create and enforce the dress code*
- *Discussions, emails, and any papers or documents regarding the formulation of the dress code*
- *Any current, draft or previous versions of the dress code, including comments, of the dress code.*
- *Information describing the objectives of the dress code, including information not written down (ie the memory of the rationale at the time held by the writer of the dress code)*
- *Any internal communication with the phrase 'dress code'*
- *Any records you hold of violations of the dress code at Auckland prison.*

The position responsible for the creation and enforcement of the dress code is the Prison Director. As you may be aware, under section 33 of the Corrections Act 2004, the director of a prison is authorised to make rules that he or she considers appropriate for the management of the prison and for the conduct and safe custody of the prisoners. Such rules must be consistent with the Corrections Act 2004, the Sentencing Act 2002, the Parole Act 2002, or any regulations made under any of those Acts.

Legislation and regulations relied upon to create and enforce the dress code include the Corrections Regulations 2005 section 114 and the Prison Operations Manual, V.03.03 Refusing visitor admittance to prison. Therefore, this part of your request is declined under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information requested is publicly available.

Links to the Corrections Regulations 2005 and the Prison Operations Manual are provided below:

www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2005/0053/latest/DLM316272.html
www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/policy_and_legislation/Prison-Operations-Manual/Visits-to-prisons/V-2.html

Please find the signage detailing Auckland Prison's dress code attached as Appendix One. Regarding your request for information describing the objectives of the dress code, including information not written down, I can advise that prison dress codes and standards are designed to ensure the safety of visitors and prisoners, and the security of the prison as a whole.

Fulfilling the remainder of your request, (points 3, 6 and 7), would require a substantial amount of collation and research. In order to identify this type of specific information, we would be required to manually review and assemble a considerable amount of material. In accordance with the OIA, we have considered whether to affix a charge or extend the time limit for responding. However, given the scale of the request we do not consider that this would be an appropriate use of our publicly funded resources. Therefore, this part of your request is declined under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

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



Ben Clark
Acting National Commissioner

While visiting Auckland Prison please
be aware of our
VISITOR DRESS STANDARDS

A clean and appropriate standard of dress and footwear is
required onsite at all times

PROHIBITED DRESS ITEMS

Singlet tops

Mini skirts or mini dresses

Short shorts

Steel capped boots

Gumboots

Gang related clothing is not permitted to be worn on site

Any top or jersey with a hood

Hats

Scarves

Sunglasses

See-through clothing

Low cut tops

No jewellery (excluding wedding ring)

Extra clothing; i.e. jackets/raincoats are not to be carried into the visits room – if
you wish to take these you must be wearing them.

Please note that staff are not responsible for looking after your personal items.

An appropriate standard of dress means:

- Covering gang affiliated tattoos where feasible
- Skirts, dresses and shorts are to be knee length
- Tops are to cover the shoulders and cleavage area
- Shoes MUST be worn at all times – no shoes, no entry

***Please do not be offended if staff request that you cover up. Failure to comply
may result in refusal of entry.***

Thank you for your cooperation