



1 February 2019

C103828

Jessica Lim
fyi-request-9380-e7fb9ab0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Lim

Thank you for your email of 11 January 2019, in which you request information relating to arrests and incarceration for defaulting on unpaid fines and debt. Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

When reviewing this information, please note that Corrections does not determine who is in prison. Our role is to administer all sentences in a safe, secure, humane and effective manner, in accordance with New Zealand legislation and having regard for other agreements, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

You have requested the following:

1. *How many people have been arrested for defaulting on unpaid fines, debt defaults, (divided by regular debt defaults and student loans defaults).*

Corrections does not hold information relating to people arrested for defaulting on unpaid fines or debt defaults. Therefore, this part of your request is declined under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by the department, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

As you are aware, your request relating to arrests for student loan defaults was transferred to the Inland Revenue Department for direct response.

2. *How many people have been incarcerated for defaulting on unpaid fines, debt defaults, (divided by regular debt defaults and student loans defaults).*

The table below shows the number of offenders for each of the last 10 financial years who commenced a prison sentence where the lead offence was default in payment of fines. Note that no cases were found involving an offence related to 'debt default'.

Financial year	Number of offenders
2008/2009	47
2009/2010	51
2010/2011	47
2011/2012	20
2012/2013	15
2013/2014	12
2014/2015	16
2015/2016	9
2016/2017	10
2017/2018	7

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



Cameron Oldfield
Principal Adviser Ministerial Services
Corporate Services