

6 August 2021

s9(2)(a)



Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received 13 July 2021 in which you ask the following questions.

I have always believed that the residential services side of corrections is Kainga Ora? In other words, the business of corrections is not housing ex-prisoners, and this is instead the business of Kainga Ora.

If I am correct in the abovementioned regard, please can you educate me.

1. *How many Kāinga Ora residential/housing developments accommodate ex-prisoners (regardless of their sex) across the country? Also, please name them individually and provide their locations.*
2. *How many ex-prisoners do each of the abovementioned Kāinga Ora residential/housing developments accommodate? (Please name them individually and provide their relative number of ex-prisoners).*
3. *What is the average length of time that ex-prisoners stay on at Kāinga Ora residential/housing developments before moving back into society?*
4. *For each of the Kāinga Ora residential/housing developments - refer 1. above - please provide the following information:*
 - i. *How many criminal activities have occurred for the past ten years that required reporting to Kāinga Ora?. (Please provide individual figures for each Kainga Ora residential/housing development).*
 - ii. *How many criminal activities have occurred for the past ten years that required and necessitated Police intervention? (Ditto 4.1. above).*
 - iii. *How many of the abovementioned criminal activities involved drugs? (Ditto 4.1. above).*
 - iv. *How many of the abovementioned criminal activities involved alcohol? (Ditto 4.1. above).*
 - v. *How many of the abovementioned criminal activities involved drugs and alcohol? (Ditto 4.1. above).*
 - vi. *How many of the abovementioned criminal activities involved one or more gangs and their members? (Ditto 4.1. above).*
 - vii. *How many of the abovementioned criminal activities involved threats of harm, serious harm and/or death? (Ditto 4.1. above).*

- viii. *How many of the abovementioned criminal activities involved domestic violence involving a) residents, b) visitors and c) children? (Ditto 4.1. above).*
- ix. *How many of the abovementioned criminal activities resulted in Police arrest? (Ditto 4.1. above)*
- x. *How many of the abovementioned criminal activities resulted in Kāinga Ora terminating the residential/housing agreement of the individual/s concerned? (Ditto 4.1. above).*
5. *How many complaints has Kāinga Ora received from members of the public in relation to any and all of the abovementioned criminal activities over the past ten years in respect of each Kāinga Ora residential/housing development? (Again, as above, please provide individual figures for each Kāinga Ora residential/housing development).*

*** Note that references to drugs and/or alcohol involvement include possession, selling, use.

I am declining your request for information under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Kāinga Ora and I have no grounds for believing that it is held by another department or agency.

For clarity, Kāinga Ora is not the residential services side of Corrections (Ara Poutama) which has its own accommodation and support services. Kāinga Ora provides housing to individuals on the Public Housing Register which is managed by the Ministry of Social Development. The Housing Register is prioritised by need and consists of applicants who have been assessed as being eligible for public housing. While a small number of public housing applicants will be ex-prisoners, Kāinga Ora will not necessarily be advised of this.

With regard to housing people when they are released from prison, I have been advised by Ara Poutama that over 15,000 people are released from prison each year, the vast majority of whom return home to family or make their own arrangements about where to live. For those needing support, Ara Poutama currently provides more than 1,100 accommodation spaces each year in the community.

In recent years, in response to an increasing shortage of options in the housing market, particularly for those with complex needs, Ara Poutama has increased its investment in accommodation and support services from \$3.8 million in 2016 to over \$7 million per annum. In addition, Ara Poutama received \$57.6 million in Budget 2018 to deliver housing and support services to people serving community-based sentences, on bail awaiting trial, or who have recently left prison. A great deal of work is carried out by Ara Poutama in this area as the alternative is that some offenders would otherwise be homeless, which would present an increased safety risk to communities.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision on your OIA request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



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