

27 June 2019

C109163 & C109161

Caleb Lane
fyi-request-10524-cb403456@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr Lane

Thank you for your emails of 12 June 2019, requesting information about prisoner property. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You have requested:

- *What toiletries are acceptable that are sent in from the outside? As in what can an inmate request to have sent in, in regards to toiletries?*
- *Are plastic 1L containers acceptable in any colour?*
- *Are clear file folders acceptable in any colour?*
- *What are inmate mat requirements?*
- *Are Headphones acceptable if the wire is factory red?*

We supply prisoners with all essential hygiene and sanitary products while they are in prison. This includes a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, two-in-one shampoo and conditioner and, for women, sanitary products. Corrections provides these items throughout the person's time in custody.

The total volume of all a prisoner's toiletries must not exceed a container approximately 100mm high x 200 mm wide x 300 mm long. Clear plastic containers are preferred. Prisoners may purchase toiletries internally or, if approved by the Prison Director, receive these items from an external party such as a family member. Aerosols and sprays are not permitted, nor are glass containers or any toiletries containing alcohol.

Clear file folders are not specified as a permitted item. However, property items not listed on the rules on authorised property made under section 45A of the Corrections Act 2004, may be considered on application by prison staff, or on request by a prisoner.

There is no national policy regarding the colour of the wire of headphones, and there are also no specified dimensions for a floor mat. However, it is important to note that prison staff may prohibit a prisoner from having any item, even a type of item specified in Corrections' Authorised Property Rules, if they believe that the particular item may interfere with the effective management, security and good order of the prison.

As previously advised, for more information, please refer to Corrections' Authorised Property Rules. A copy of these were provided to you in our previous letter to you dated 10 June 2019, our reference C108091. This document is also available on our public website at:
https://www.corrections.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/678348/Rules-on-authorized-property-made-under-section-45A-v.11-271017.pdf.

- *If an inmate has an item (jewellery) in the inmate's possession, which then is confiscated, due to it not being on the prisoner property list. Therefore the inmate is charged. Is it then the inmate is entitled to send the item out to family? What happens to the property item? At what point can family pick up these... items?*

A prisoner may receive a misconduct charge for having an item of property that has not been recorded and approved. Depending on the outcome of the misconduct hearing, the item will either be destroyed, stored with the prisoner's other non-issued property, issued to the prisoner, or sent to the prisoner's family member or friend. A prisoner is able to make a request that it be sent out.

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.

Ngā mihi nui



Rachel Leota
National Commissioner