

25 March 2020

C119394

David Farrar
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Tēnā koe Mr Farrar

Thank you for your email of 2 March 2020, requesting information about individuals serving less than three years' imprisonment. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As you may be aware, the Electoral (Disqualification of Sentenced Prisoners) Amendment Act 2010 removed the right of a person serving a term of imprisonment to register as an elector. Proposed legislative changes under the Electoral Amendment Bill are currently before Parliament to restore voting rights to those prisoners serving a sentence of less than three years' imprisonment.

Prisoners on remand (but not sentenced) are currently able to vote, as are prisoners who have been released on parole. Prisoners regain the right to enrol to vote immediately on their release, even if this occurs before the end of their full sentence of imprisonment.

The prison population fluctuates on a daily basis due to arrests, releases and court decisions. For ease of response, the figures provided are based on a snapshot of the prison population as at 30 November 2019.

You have requested:

- 1. The number of sentenced prisoners who are serving a term of less than 3 years*
- 2. How many of those prisoners are identified as members of a gang*
- 3. How many of those prisoners are identified as gang associates*

Your first three questions are answered together below.

As at 30 November 2019, 1,985 individuals were serving a sentence of less than three years' imprisonment. Of these individuals, 797 have recorded gang affiliations.

Corrections records information regarding anyone who is presently recorded as having a connection to a gang, including prospects and associates as well as patched members.

It is not possible to accurately break these figures down further according to individuals who are 'identified members of a gang', versus 'identified as gang associates'.

Prisoners can be identified as connected to a gang by various means, including by one or more of the following:

- Gang tattoos/markings
- Gang documentation/paraphernalia
- Information from other agencies
- Admission to staff
- Staff observations
- Intelligence information from other sources.

4. *The average number of convictions of those prisoners in (1)*

50.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a long horizontal tail.

Rachel Leota
National Commissioner