

9 July 2020

C121898

C.J. Huntley
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Tēnā koe C.J.

Thank you for your email of 11 May 2020, requesting information about television channel availability in prisons. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

I've been informed that Auckland Region Woman's Correctional Facility has had four new television channels added (being: Duke, Bravo, Choice and The Edge) and my request is for confirmation if these channels have been added at all prisons managed by corrections, and if not, I am requesting an explanation as to why this has not happened.

The number of television channels available in prisons is limited by supporting infrastructure. An assessment was recently completed to identify what television content is best received by prisoners and, based on this assessment, the decision was made to:

- Remove Concert FM and Base FM (two radio channels that prisoners can still listen to on their own radio or by purchasing a radio) and HGTV channels (a home improvement channel).
- Add Choice TV (documentaries), Bravo (reality and documentaries) and the Edge TV (music TV).

These changes were made in the first two weeks of May 2020 to all 18 prisons. All prison units are connected to the prison site's distributed television network and available television channels do not vary between any Corrections-managed prisons.

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.

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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized, elongated shape.

Rachel Leota
National Commissioner