

05 March 2021

C129674

BAW Russell

fyi-request-14273-d9a62428@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe BAW Russell

Thank you for your request of 11 December 2020, requesting information about the Prisoner Incentive Framework. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections provides a comprehensive range of rehabilitation, education and employment opportunities to help prisoners prepare to maintain a crime free life outside prison. The majority of people in prison have no formal qualifications and limited education or work experience prior to coming to prison. We know that helping people gain education, qualification, or employment skills increases their likelihood of finding employment when they are released. It reduces their likelihood of re-offending and keeps our communities safe.

People in prison who undertake employment and training do so on a voluntary basis. Corrections pays people in prison a small allowance through the Prisoner Incentive Framework to encourage prisoners to take part in activities that we know help with their rehabilitation and reintegration. This allowance is not a wage or a salary.

I note that you have made a similar request in December 2018 and that the current request is for updated figures for the same subject matter. The previous request was posted at [fyi.org.nz/request/9188-prisoner-incentive-framework](https://www.fyi.org.nz/request/9188-prisoner-incentive-framework) and has a Corrections reference number of C102925.

The information you seek cannot be readily retrieved for the entire financial year. In line with the previous request, we have provided four random weeks' data. During the nationwide lockdown caused by COVID-19, as well as the second Auckland Region lockdown, people in prison continued to be paid as if at work. As a result COVID-19 restrictions have not had a significant effect on the figures. For reference, the week of 26 April 2020 was the final week of Alert Level 4.

You requested, for the 2019/2020 financial year:

- *the total number of hours of activity undertaken at each payment level, broken down by the type of activity (e.g. how many hours at each payment level for employment, education, and rehabilitation respectively)*

These figures have been provided in Appendix One.

- *the total number of hours paid at the unemployment rate*

These figures have been provided in Appendix Two.

- *the total money paid to prisoners under the framework*

For the 2019/20 financial year, the total amount paid to people in prison under the Prisoner Incentive Framework was \$4,273,295. This translates to an average of \$82,179 per week.

- *the revenue earned by the Department from prisoner employment and other activities undertaken under the framework.*

These figures have been provided in Appendix Three. These figures are the total revenue paid to Corrections only and do not include any expenditure. The inclusion of a new 'Release to Work' (RtW) category in this response was reported as part of the 'other' category in our 2018 response and accounted for \$542,990 that year.

As noted to you in 2018, the RtW programme allows people on minimum security classifications, who are assessed as suitable, to engage in paid employment in the community where they can gain experience, employment skills and job stability to support them into work and to live crime-free on release. Individuals on RtW have previously participated in prison-based activities to ensure they are well-prepared for community-based employment and that the public is safe. They are paid at a full market rate determined by their employer.

While participating in the RtW programme, individuals agree to pay board to Corrections for their detention in prison. These payments also contribute to costs associated with facilitating safe access to community-based employment including, for example, the use of GPS trackers to ensure RtW participants remain at approved work locations at all times. Board is charged at 30 percent of their take-home earnings, up to a maximum of \$273 per week. The RtW figure included in this table represents the total board paid to Corrections by RtW participants. Further information about RtW can be found at:

https://www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/prison_sentences/employment_and_support_programmes/employment_activities/release_to_work

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them 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 black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Topia Rameka
Acting National Commissioner

Appendix One: Number of hours paid to people in prison, at each pay level, by activity

Week ending 18/08/19						
	20c	30c	40c	50c	60c	Total hours
Reintegration	3,896	761	38,150	25	3,466	46,298
Industries	4,892	1,611	44,146	417	20,816	71,882
Unit Employment	6,354	647	27,781	473	4,313	39,568
Total	15,142	3,019	110,077	915	28,595	157,748
Week ending 24/11/19						
	20c	30c	40c	50c	60c	Total hours
Reintegration	4,145	828	38,497	48	3,524	47,042
Industries	4,971	2,407	41,229	169	22,704	71,480
Unit Employment	7,447	575	30,237	259	5,372	43,890
Total	16,563	3,810	109,963	476	31,600	162,412
Week ending 26/04/20						
	20c	30c	40c	50c	60c	Total hours
Reintegration	3,087	364	35,351	12	4,807	43,621
Industries	6,070	1,444	38,446	140	21,438	67,538
Unit Employment	7,999	270	30,528	204	5,762	44,763
Total	17,156	2,078	104,325	356	32,007	155,922
Week ending 14/06/20						
	20c	30c	40c	50c	60c	Total hours
Reintegration	2,858	322	33,534	18	4,645	41,377
Industries	5,202	1,310	37,169	133	20,538	64,352
Unit Employment	9,028	602	32,330	265	6,726	48,951
Total	17,088	2,234	103,033	416	31,909	154,680
Sample average (to nearest hour)						
	20c	30c	40c	50c	60c	Total hours
Reintegration	3,497	569	36,383	26	4,111	44,586
Industries	5,284	1,693	40,248	215	21,374	68,814
Unit Employment	7,707	524	30,219	300	5,543	44,293
Total	16,488	2,786	106,850	541	31,028	157,693

Appendix Two: Hours paid at the unemployment rate per week

Unemployment Rate paid per week					
Week Ending	18/08/19	24/11/19	26/04/20	14/06/20	Average
Hours Paid	112,350	108,215	118,205	109,803	112,143

Appendix Three: Total revenue for the 2019/20 year, by employment activity

Employment Activity	
Engineering	\$1,084,123
Primary Sector	\$13,800,315
Prison Based Industries	\$1,143,183
Timber	\$1,638,677
Other	\$7,012
Release to Work	\$727,966