

13 April 2021

C133144

Bruce

fyi-request-14915-a1711a9e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Bruce

Thank you for your email of 6 August 2020, requesting information about David Ross' release from Rimutaka Prison in February 2020. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

For ease of response, we have divided your request into two parts.

You requested:

- 1) I request all communication plans, strategies and briefings (including drafts) prepared prior to the release of former prisoner David Ross from Rimutaka Prison on or around February 24 2020. Additionally I request all advice given to staff at Rimutaka Prison regarding media activities around Rimutaka Prison on 24/2/2020, as well as emails, texts, and phone logs of calls between Rimutaka Prison staff and managers (including Corrections-supplied cellphones) and Department of Corrections head office on 24/2/2020 relating to the media activity around the entrance to Rimutaka Prison and enquiries into the release of David Ross.*

Corrections is statutorily required to protect private information that we hold, including information relating to the people we manage such as Mr Ross. Additionally, the release of information regarding the release of a prisoner/former prisoner would jeopardise the security of the prison. Therefore, your request is refused in accordance with the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased natural persons; and
- 6(c), as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

As per section 9(1) of the OIA, we have also considered whether there are countervailing public interest considerations favouring the release of the requested information. We do not believe such considerations are present in this case.

- 2) *I also request any reports generated by the Department of Corrections after Ross's release regarding media coverage of his release, and communications plans or documents generated regarding any other OIA requests made about the circumstances of Ross's release.*

Attached as Appendix One are copies of Daily Media Summaries generated by our communications team and sent to our internal staff, to outline requests for information received by media. Where the summary includes queries pertaining to Mr Ross, we have considered these documents within scope of your request and provided them.

The names of the requestors have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons. As per section 9(1) of the OIA, we have also considered whether there are countervailing public interest considerations favouring the release of the requested information. We do not believe such considerations are present in this case.

Some information has also been excluded as it is outside the scope of your request.

In addition, we have searched our electronic database for records of any further OIA requests received regarding Mr Ross. We can confirm there are no further requests for information outside of those summarised in the Daily Media Summaries.

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 raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jones', written in a cursive style.

Robert Jones
Manager Ministerial Services
People & Capability

From: Comms Service Desk
Sent: 10 January 2020 03:33 p.m.
Subject: Daily Media Summary Friday 10 January 2020

DAILY MEDIA SUMMARY
Friday 10 January 2020

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Media

Outside of Scope

Media query: David Ross' release date

53 (b)(7) (TVNZ) requested details about the release time of a high-profile prisoner at Rimutaka Prison.

Communications is preparing a response.

Outside of Scope

Outside of Scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: Comms Service Desk
Sent: 14 January 2020 04:54 p.m.
Subject: Daily Media Summary Tuesday 14 January 2020

DAILY MEDIA SUMMARY
Tuesday 14 January 2020

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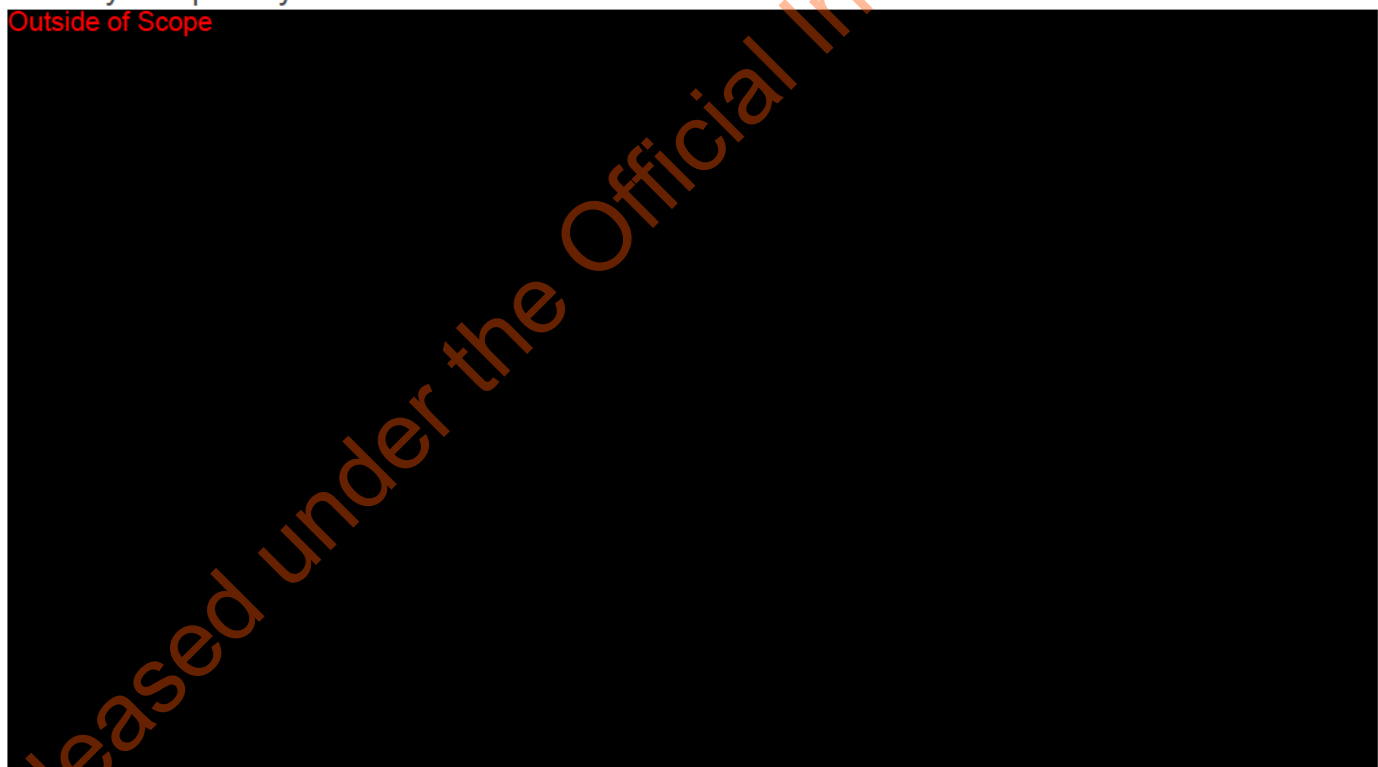
Media

Media query: David Ross' release date

Last week, ^{53 (b)(i) - information of} [REDACTED] (TVNZ) requested details about the release time of a high-profile prisoner at Rimutaka Prison.

Communications responded that we could not provide the information requested for operational security and privacy reasons.

Outside of Scope



From: Comms Service Desk
Sent: 17 February 2020 04:51 p.m.
Subject: Daily Media Summary Monday 17 February 2020

DAILY MEDIA SUMMARY
Monday 17 February 2020

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Media

53 (b)(i) - Information of another individual



Media query: David Ross' release time

53 (b)(i) - Information of (TVNZ) asked what time David Ross will be released from Rimutaka Prison and where media will be allowed to film when he is released.

Communications is preparing a response.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Outside of Scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: Comms Service Desk
Sent: 18 February 2020 04:57 p.m.
Subject: Daily Media Summary - Tuesday 18 February 2020

DAILY MEDIA SUMMARY
Tuesday 18 February 2020

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Outside of Scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Outside of Scope

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Outside of Scope

Media query: David Ross' release time

Yesterday ^{53 (b)(i) -} ~~██████████~~ (TVNZ) asked what time David Ross will be released from Rimutaka Prison and where media will be allowed to film when he is released. _{Information of}

Communications provided the following advice: for operational security and privacy reasons, we cannot provide the time this prisoner will be released.

Filming is permitted in the area surrounding the prison provided you are not on prison property and you do not identify specific security measures at the prison. This includes close ups of security features such as locks, cameras or fence lines. Wide angle shots of the general structure are ok.

Outside of Scope

Outside of Scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: Comms Service Desk
Sent: 24 February 2020 04:49 p.m.
Subject: Daily Media Summary Monday 24 February 2020

DAILY MEDIA SUMMARY
Monday 24 February 2020

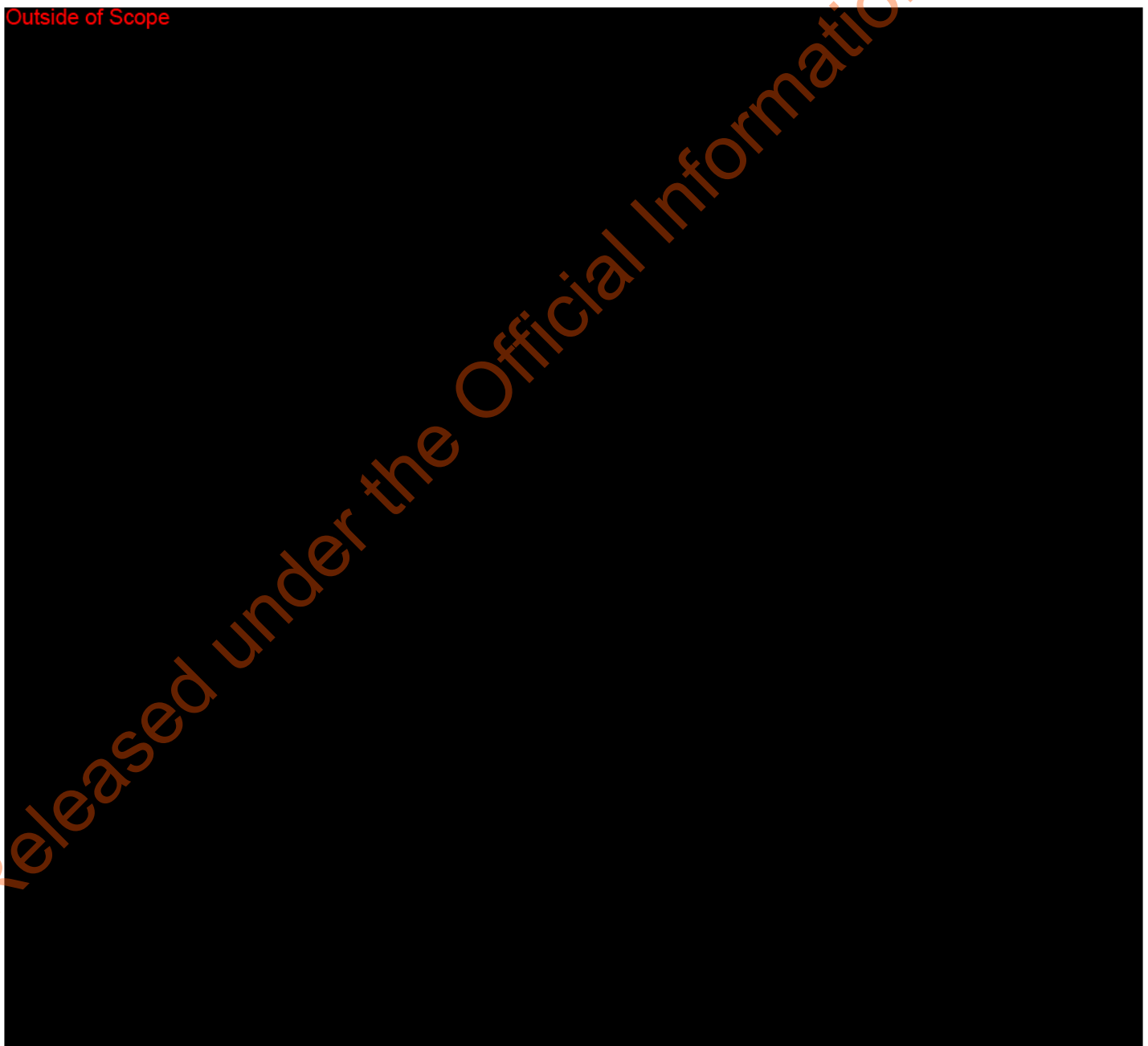
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Media

Outside of Scope



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Outside of Scope

Media query: David Ross' release time

53 (b)(1) - [REDACTED] (TVNZ) asked if David Ross had been released from Rimutaka Prison yet.
Information of

Communications initially responded that we could not provide information about the time the prisoner would be released for operational security and privacy reasons.

After David Ross had been released, we responded that the person was no longer in our custody.

Outside of Scope

Outside of Scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982