

16 December 2021

C142194

Phoebe Moran

fyi-request-16995-221e400c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Phoebe

Thank you for your Official Information Act Request of 1 October 2021 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa (Corrections), requesting the following information:

- 1) How much money has the Department budgeted for its COVID-19 response since January 1, 2020? Please break this down by budgetary line item. Please break this down by financial year.*
- 2) What has been the actual Departmental spend on its COVID-19 response since January 1, 2020? Please break this down by budgetary line item. Please break this down by financial year.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections continues to take a proactive approach to COVID-19 recovery activities. We have scaled the number of personnel assigned to COVID-19 related activities up and down as required at different stages of our response.

As alert levels changed, Corrections' response has also changed, focusing on risk mitigation and containment at the higher alert levels, as well as prevention throughout. This includes safety measures at prisons, Community Corrections sites, regional offices, and national office. Corrections' COVID-19 recovery includes a vaccination programme for staff and people in prison, and a workstream for on-going response measures across all areas of Corrections.

Early in the COVID-19 response, Corrections was allocated funding from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to help with PPE procurement, paid leave for sick workers, and more. You can find information here, on page 11:

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/system/files/2020-05/b20-sum-initiatives-crrf.pdf>

Appendix One provides Covid Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) budgeted funding and actual spend for 2019/20 to 2023/24, as at 29 October 2021.

You may also be interested to know that the Government has publicly released a variety of documents relating to decisions about its response to COVID-19. These can be found at the following link:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/proactive-releases/>

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

I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jo Perez', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

PP Jo Perez
Deputy Chief Executive
Finance, Planning & Assurance

Appendix One – Covid-19 Related funding and spending for 2019/20 to 2023/24, as at 29 October 2021ⁱ

	Funded	Actual	Funded	Actual	Funded	Actual	Funded	Funded
	2019/20 (\$m)	2019/20 (\$m)	2020/21 (\$m)	2020/21 (\$m)	2021/22 (\$m)	YTD 2021/22 (\$m)	2022/23 (\$m)	2023/24 (\$m)
<u>CRRF OPEX:</u>								
COVID-19 - Addressing the Department of Corrections' Annual Leave Costs	13.250	11.350	-	-	-	2.500	-	-
Maintaining Connectivity Between our Staff, and Between People in our Care and their Whānau during COVID-19	1.377	0.340	6.375	6.375	3.075	0.769	3.075	3.075
COVID - Personal Protective Equipment	9.192	7.047	3.852	4.086	-	0.610	-	-
Responding to COVID-19 by Strengthening our Health, Safety and Wellbeing, and Communications Capacity and Capability	0.101	0.101	2.298	2.100	-	0.500	-	-
Savings Initiatives as per Budget 20 documentation	(16.670)	(11.735)	-	-	-	-	-	-
COVID -19 - Supported Accommodation	1.753	0.285	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thermal Imaging Detection System - COVID-19	0.075	0.075	0.350	0.350	0.352	0.075	0.354	0.356
Justice Sector Resourcing to Address COVID-19 Related Backlogs	-	-	0.098	0.098	0.195	0.049	0.195	-
Mayfair House: Offsetting COVID-19 Redevelopment Delay Impacts	-	-	0.034	0.034	1.246	0.311	0.096	0.096
Te Maihi o te Whare Māori - Māori & Iwi Housing Innovation (MAIHI) - NRCF	-	-	1.100	-	1.500	-	1.500	1.500
Waikeria PPP – Outcome of COVID-19 Negotiations	-	-	1.050	1.050	5.100	0.700	5.100	4.100
<u>CRRF CAPEX:</u>								
Maintaining Connectivity Between our Staff, and Between People in our Care and their Whānau during COVID-19	5.343	5.343	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thermal Imaging Detection System - COVID-19	0.843	0.791	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mayfair House: Offsetting COVID-19 Redevelopment Delay Impacts	-	-	0.163	0.163	0.800	0.800	-	-
Te Maihi o te Whare Māori - Māori and Iwi Housing Innovation (MAIHI) - Northland Region Corrections Facility	-	-	3.600	-	-	-	-	-
Waikeria PPP – Outcome of COVID-19 Negotiations	-	-	35.000	35.000	1.185	-	2.445	-

¹ In some instances, money may be reprioritised from baseline funding or one budgeted line to another, if needed and within stewardship responsibilities for ring fenced funding. This has been required in some cases as the Covid Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) was established in response to COVID-19 in quarter four of 2019/20 financial year, however, funding requests were made based on estimated Covid-19 disruption under an elimination setting. The subsequent emergence of COVID-19 variants and changing operational and fiscal requirements was not known at the time and accordingly the funding detailed above represented an assessment of response costs for the initial wave of COVID-19 only.

Other Notes:

- Where there are unspent funds it has been returned to Treasury and so retained in the CRRF.
- The scope of the PP&E expenditure included in the analysis is the same as that funded from the CRRF (i.e. it does not represent full expenditure on all PP&E).
- Waikeria PPP costs relate to the negotiation and settlement reached in June 2020.
- It is noted that the Te Maihi o te Whare Māori - Māori and Iwi Housing Innovation (MAIHI) - Northland Region Corrections Facility (NRCF) was not necessarily a Covid-19 related initiative, however, funding was released at the same time as the CRRF so it has been provided for process convenience. This \$3.6m capital funding was to develop an on-site construction facility at NRCF which has been delayed. Options for the utilisation of this funding to achieve intended outcomes are still being assessed.
- The actual costs shown above are for those elements that relate to funding that was provided through the CRRF. It should be noted the department is incurring other costs relating to the ongoing COVID-19 response and its impacts on our operating settings.