

8 August 2018

BAW Russell
fyi-request-8427-dabc7042@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear BAW Russell

On behalf of Gabriel Makhlouf, Secretary to the Treasury, I acknowledge receipt of your email requesting:

“... any information you have on the full cost to the government of sending a person to prison. A figure of around \$100,000 per prisoner per annum is sometimes cited, but this is simply the corrections prison budget divided by the number of prisoners. It does not take into account, for instance, police or courts costs, or savings from, for instance, reductions in crime, ceasing benefit payments or reduced future superannuation payments due to the reduction in life expectancy associated with imprisonment. I am interested in the average net cost to government of a year of imprisonment. As well as a total I would like the total broken down to indicate which parts of government bear these costs.

*Please also provide any similar information covering the cost to society more broadly (i.e. including costs not borne by the government).
If you do not have this information I also request any information on how adequate cost-benefit analyses have been undertaken on proposed changes to the prison system, and any proposals or plans to address this gap.”*

Your request was received by the Treasury on 3 August 2018 and will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act.

The Treasury may need to contact you to clarify your request. To facilitate this, and to confirm your eligibility to make a request under section 12 of the Official Information Act, would you please reply giving your personal email and postal address.

The Treasury will not publish your personal contact details or use the information for any reason other than processing your request. The personal information you provide will be subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act 1993 and the Official Information Act 1982.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. M. Devall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "M".

Ministerial Advisor