

18 December 2018

C101849

Susan Jackman  
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Dear Ms Jackman

Thank you for your email of 2 November 2018 requesting information about the risk of reconviction/risk of imprisonment (RoC\*RoI) tool. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The RoC\*RoI is a computer-based statistical algorithm that measures the likelihood of a person being both reconvicted and sentenced to imprisonment within the next five years. The RoC\*RoI algorithm is housed and calculated within our Integrated Offender Management System and uses an offender's criminal history and a number of different demographics. These include gender, age at first conviction, previous conviction and age at subsequent convictions, time in the Corrections system, time between offences, seriousness of previous offending, and current offence.

The tool is used in many offender management processes, such as rehabilitation programme allocation, and allows for the targeting of resources to high-risk offenders. It was developed by the New Zealand Department of Corrections based on New Zealand offender information. As the tool was created locally, using local data, Corrections has high confidence in its relevance to New Zealand society.

You have asked:

- 1. All information, policies, guidelines, rules instructions etc. that a staff member would use when they manually override a Roc\*RoI score.*
- 2. what is the maximum allowable score override as a percentage of the algorithm score (e.g. +/- 10%), or as an actual maximum value (e.g. +/- .15) or whatever terminology the department uses.*
- 3. who is it that decides the algorithm is wrong and an Override is necessary? (I don't mean the individual names, rather titles e.g. PCO, case manager etc.)*

4. *once a decision has been made to override a RoC\*roi does the same person calculate and authorise the new score? If not, please explain the "chain of command" for this procedure.*

Either probation officers or case managers calculate an offender's RoC\*RoI through Corrections' offender database. Calculation occurs after sentencing to ensure the calculation is updated to include the current sentence. After this, a recalculation would not likely occur unless the offender was convicted of any further offences.

Please note that the RoC\*RoI score is just one of many different factors that are considered by Corrections and the New Zealand Parole Board (NZPB) when making decisions about an offender's management. It is a static risk measure, which is not influenced by events or experiences, and therefore needs to be considered in the context of what it is being used for. An overall assessment of the risk an offender poses considers all relevant information. It combines static information, like the RoC\*RoI, as well as dynamic factors. An offender's progress in rehabilitation, treatment or reintegration is also considered by Corrections and the NZPB when making decisions about the management of an offender.

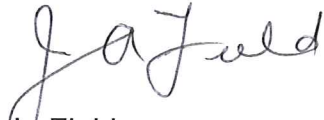
An offender's RoC\*RoI score cannot be 'over-ridden' by adjusting the score manually as you describe. However, Corrections can override the criteria, which may include a RoC\*RoI score within a certain range, used to decide whether an offender is eligible for interventions such as rehabilitation or treatment programmes.

An example of when this 'override' may happen is with young offenders. A young offender coming into the Corrections system may show no official record of offending in the adult courts, but may have an extensive offending history in the Youth Court. The RoC\*RoI score can only be calculated on the criminal history available, which is not inclusive of convictions received in the Youth Court. This may indicate the young offender is not a priority for accessing rehabilitation programmes. Decision makers may give more weight to other factors, to ensure that despite their RoC\*RoI score, the young offender is still able to access the rehabilitation programmes, or other interventions, needed to help them turn their life around.

More information regarding the RoC\*RoI tool is available on our website at: [www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/research\\_and\\_statistics/risk-of-reconviction.html](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/research_and_statistics/risk-of-reconviction.html).

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.

Yours sincerely

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

Jo Field  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Service Development