

13 November 2023

C173090

Erika Whittome

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Tēnā koe Erika

Thank you for your email of 10 September 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about Corrections' COVID-19 response. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

1 Given the shortages of prison workers and many prisoners have been denied visits due to this shortage have you hired these 80 staff back?

Eleven people were rehired. Please note that as Corrections holds no clear database on who was fired and rehired, this figure is the best to our knowledge.

2. What budget was allocated for Covid 19 health and safety activities at Corrections for the 2021/2022 financial year? For example Covid advisors, specialist roles, marketing etc

The operating budget allocated to our COVID response in 2021/22 was \$12.3m. This budget was used for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies, cleaning services, prisoner activity books, medical supplies and travel for some staff. Corrections did not employ any specialist staff beyond those health staff and health and safety staff already employed by Corrections prior to the pandemic. This budget was an internal reprioritisation from Corrections existing funding.

3 What designation did Corrections receive under section 191 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 in order to act as a regulator for health and safety matters?

Corrections is not a regulator for health and safety matters and have not received any such designation. Corrections is a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) under the Health and Safety Act 2015 and as with the vast majority of organisations in New Zealand, Work Safe is our regulator.

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 trust the information provided is of assistance. 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 blue ink, appearing to be 'Nic Barkley', with a stylized, cursive script.

Nic Barkley
Manager Ministerial Services
People and Capability