

07 July 2023

C168285

Mason

fyi-request-22703-65edc159@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mason

Thank you for your request of 6 May 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about Electronic Monitoring (EM) and the Buddi system. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As we advised in our correspondence to you of 30 May 2023, the following parts of your request have been transferred to the Ministry of Justice in accordance with section 14 of the OIA:

In the 3 months of 2021, September, October, and November:

- how many times was a prosecution launched for a breach of bail / parole / other form of breach such as a parole recall, result from those failures to charge? Please forward this portion of the request to the MOJ or Police should that be appropriate. In which case, it is likely that there may need to be collaboration.

In the 3 months of 2022, September, October, and November:

- how many times was a prosecution launched for a breach of bail / parole / other form of breach such as a parole recall, result from a failure to charge trackers? Please forward this portion of the request to the MOJ or Police should that be appropriate. In which case, it is likely that there may need to be collaboration.

The responses to the remainder of your request are below.

Corrections does not determine who is subject to electronic monitoring – this is a decision for the courts and the New Zealand Parole Board (NZPB). The courts may impose an electronic monitoring condition as part of community-based sentences and orders (for example Community Detention, Home Detention or an Extended Supervision Order) or as part of bail. The NZPB may also impose an electronic monitoring condition when granting Parole.

Electronic monitoring provides an additional tool in the overall management of people on community-based sentences and orders. It does not replace effective supervision from probation officers, the use of interventions and programmes, regular risk assessments, and pro-social community support.

Corrections has a team available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to respond to potential non-compliance with electronic monitoring. How Corrections responds differs depending on the seriousness of the case and can include contacting the individual or their whānau by phone, sending a field officer to check in with the individual and contacting Police. Corrections works closely with Police to respond to incidents of absconds from electronic monitoring.

- Please provide the OIA response to DEBBIE PORTEOUS of the Otago Times from 2010 that was referenced in this article
<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.odt.co.nz%2Fnews%2Fdunedin%2Fmonitoring-equipment-fails-hundreds-times&data=05%7C01%7Cinfo%40corrections.govt.nz%7C457ca394456f4ad4a74f08db4dfafc91%7Cfc4d60d1bb674d7b898109a1c54e91ea%7C0%7C0%7C638189513848762466%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLjBtIiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1rGHUTUWK3LuNIQ2a5Y1epRs4rqdK4Jr5dQuEPTB75U%3D&reserved=0.>

Please see the OIA response to Debbie Porteous attached as Appendix One.

In the 3 months of 2021, September, October, and November:

- *On average, how many people were subject to EM at any one time?*

Please see below for the average number of people subject to EM in September, October and November of 2021. Note, this also includes people who were subject to EM Bail, which is jointly managed by Corrections and Police.

Month	Average number of people subject to EM
September 2021	5,556
October 2021	5,428
November 2021	5,313

- *how many faults were recorded for EM equipment?*

This information was not reported by Corrections or our EM provider during the timeframe specified. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

- *please provide the quantities of each type of equipment (OBC, trackers, base station...) that was returned for repair or to be sent back to the supplier. Please itemise each category of equipment; dates are not required, just quantities.*

This information was not reported by Corrections or our EM provider during the timeframe specified. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as

the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

- how many times was EM equipment failed to be charge resulting in an alert in the monitoring system? RF bracelets did not require charging, so this request is inherently limited to those who were subject to EM equipment that required charging (EM Bail, Home detention, Parole).

As noted, Corrections has staff available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to respond to potential non-compliance with electronic monitoring. How Corrections responds differs depending on the seriousness of the event and can include contacting the individual by phone, sending a field officer to check in with the individual and contacting Police.

Month	Number of times a low battery alert generated due to a person failing to charge equipment
September 2021	30,674
October 2021	34,636
November 2021	36,439

New Buddi system:

In the 3 months of 2022, September, October, and November:

- On average, how many people were subject to EM at any one time?

Please see below for the average number of people subject to EM in September, October and November of 2022. Note, this also includes people who were subject to EM Bail, which is jointly managed by Corrections and Police.

Month	Average number of people subject to EM
September 2022	5,884
October 2022	5,854
November 2022	5,926

- how many faults were recorded for EM equipment?

Corrections holds data relating to faults in Smart Tags, which is displayed below. Information regarding faults in other types of EM equipment are not recorded and are therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by Corrections, and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

Month	Recorded faults with Smart Tags
September 2022	10
October 2022	6
November 2022	6

- please provide the quantity of each type of equipment (OBC, trackers, base station...) that was returned for repair or to be sent back to the supplier. Please itemise each category of equipment; dates are not required, just quantities.

The below table shows the number of equipment items which were damaged in the months of September, October, and November 2022, broken down by the type of equipment which was damaged. Please note that this data does not include equipment which was returned due to being faulty.

Damaged/Faulty Items Returned to the Supplier for Repair	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022
Smart Tag	-	48	31
On-Body Charger	-	6	14
On-Body Charger Dock	-	-	18
Strap	104	134	153
RF Beacon	-	1	5
Smart Beacon	-	-	4
Field officer strap roll	3	2	3
Field officer release tool	3	1	8
Field officer ankle measure	2	1	1

Please note that tampering with a strap generates an alert, which prompts a response from our Electronic Monitoring team, who operate 24 hours a day.

- how many times was EM equipment failed to be charge resulting in an alert in the monitoring system? RF bracelets did not require charging, so this request is inherently limited to those who were subject to EM equipment that required charging (EM Bail, Home detention, Parole).

Month	Number of times a low battery alert generated due to a person failing to charge equipment
September 2022	17,211
October 2022	18,570
November 2022	18,705

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Brigid Kean', written in a cursive style.

Brigid Kean
Acting National Commissioner