

Re: Acknowledgement for Amnesty OIA

Annaliese Johnston <[REDACTED]>

Tue 23/06/2020 3:48 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your call yesterday. As discussed, could you please connect me with the relevant person in Corrections who I could talk to about both the review of minimum entitlements and also some queries we have regarding national oversight of issues such as lockdown hours, including prior to COVID 19?

I would also like to confirm a request for the following under the Official Information Act:

- Any correspondence between the Minister of Corrections and the Department of Corrections regarding what assurances were sought from the Department of Corrections to ensure that human rights are upheld in prisons, including that prisoners receive their minimum entitlements throughout Alert Levels 4 and 3;
- The briefing provided to the Minister regarding the national review of Corrections' compliance with the minimum prisoner entitlement of one hour of daily exercise, covering the period 24 to 30 April 2020.

Thank you for your help with this.

Kind regards,

Annaliese Johnston | Advocacy & Policy Manager | Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand

[REDACTED] | p: 0800 AMNESTY (266 378)

[REDACTED] | [amnesty.org.nz](https://www.amnesty.org.nz)



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2020 11:24 AM

To: Annaliese Johnston <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Acknowledgement for Amnesty OIA

Kia ora Annaliese,

In reviewing your request I have found that the information you have requested (the national review) has not been provided to the Minister's office and therefore cannot be provided to you under the OIA.

Your request has now been transferred to the Department of Corrections for their investigation and response.

As you may be aware, the Office of the Prime Minister has recently issued a directive that all advice received by Ministers related to COVID-19 be proactively released. A number of documents have been released to date, at www.uniteforrecovery.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/legislation-and-key-documents/proactive-release/. The briefing received regarding the national review, B4024 Minimum Entitlements - one hour of physical exercise, falls within the scope of this directive, and will soon be proactively released.

You can expect a response from Corrections in due course,

Nāku noa, nā

Corrections
Office of Hon Kelvin Davis | Minister of Corrections

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2020 2:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Acknowledgement for Amnesty OIA

Kia ora Annaliese,

This email is to acknowledge receipt of your OIA request for the following:

- Could we please have a copy of the (below) review referred to by the Minister in his 28 May letter to Meg de Ronde, including the documentation that shows why the minimum entitlement was denied?

"In seeking further assurance around this matter I asked Corrections to undertake a national review of their compliance with the minimum prisoner entitlement of one hour of daily exercise, covering the period 24 to 30 April 2020. This found that 96 percent of people in prison had received their minimum entitlement, and often more. In the other four percent of cases, documentation was able to be provided which shows the reason why the minimum entitlement was denied, and that these decisions are in line with Prison Operation Manual guidance."

We have received your request today, 4 June 2020, and will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 2 July 2020, being 20 working days after the day your request was received. If we are unable to respond to your request by then, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.

If you have any queries, or if any additional factors come to light which are relevant to your request, please feel free to contact us so that these can be taken into account.

Nāku noa, nā

Corrections
Office of Hon Kelvin Davis | Minister of Corrections
