



28 JUL 2016



Dear

On 16 May 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information regarding Youth Justice Residences:

1. *How many youths who have been charged with a crime have spent time in one of these facilities? I'd like the figures for each month, back to July 2011.*
2. *How many youth who have been charged with a crime have escaped or left these facilities (and didn't return of their own volition) I'd like the figures for each month, back to July 2011.*
3. *How many times has each individual youth who escaped or left (and didn't return of their own volition) done so? Ie. Did Person A escape 5 times? Again, I'd like the figures for each month, back to July 2011.*
4. *Which facilities do all of the above three data sets relate to?*
5. *The information should please include any and all agencies where youth in CYF care go, including privately managed facilities.*

On 18 and 23 May 2016, you requested the following additional information:

6. *For each individual (names not required) How many times were they subsequently arrested following absconding/escaping/leaving - and for what crimes?*
7. *For each individual (names not required) What crime or crimes did they commit following their abscond/escape/leaving?*
8. *What are the ages of each person in each data set?*

A Youth Justice residence is a safe and secure place when young people have been placed into the care of Child, Youth and Family and can't live in the community for a period of time. Residences provide a safe place where young people can be supported to get their life on track and to become the best they can be.

A young person may be placed into a residence for the following reasons:

- A young person has been arrested by the police and put in the care of Child, Youth and Family until they go to Youth Court.
- A young person has been remanded by the court and needs to stay at a residence until the court deals with the case. This can take two or three weeks, and could be longer if the charges are denied.

- A young person has been sentenced by the Youth Court for a period between three to six months. If things go well for them in the residence, they may be able to leave the residence earlier. Once they leave the residence, they will be subject to six to twelve months supervision in the community.
- If a young person is sentenced to prison they may be admitted to a residence for some of this time.

National and local level data regarding residences can be found on the Child, Youth and Family website at the following link: <http://www.cyf.govt.nz/about-us/key-statistics/kids-in-care.html>

You will also find enclosed a table which provides the number of admissions to Youth Justice Residences in the years ending June 2011 to June 2015 inclusive. You will note that the number of admissions has increased since 2010 where as youth crime has fallen. It is pertinent to note that the rise in admissions is largely caused by repeat admissions of the same young people.

The term 'absconder' refers to a child or young person in the custody of the Chief Executive who has run away. This can be an unauthorised absence or the child or young person may be missing. There are occasions where children and young people abscond whilst in the community; for example, on activity outings, access visits or at court appearances. This information is recorded on a child or young person's individual case file and is monitored on a case by case basis; however this data is not collated in manner that can be centrally reported. Information about the Joint Protocol with New Zealand Police, and how Child, Youth and Family work with Police to manage missing children is available at:

<http://www.practicecentre.cyf.govt.nz/policy/caring-for-children-and-young-people/key-information/reporting-and-managing-missing-children-and-young-people-in-care.html>

I can confirm that there were no absconding events from a Youth Justice Residence between 1 July 2014 and 31 December 2014. For the period between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015, one occasion of absconding occurred. For the period between 1 January 2016 and 1 June 2016, one incident occurred whereby two young people escaped from a residence at the same time. You will note that when compared with the number of admissions to Youth Justice residences, the number of absconding cases is low. The Ministry is unable to provide details of the crimes and ages associated with each individual as this information is stored within individual case files.

The Ministry is unable to provide absconding data from prior to 1 July 2014 as this was when Residences moved to the Ministry's centralised reporting system. Prior to 1 July all incident reports were held locally at each residence and on individual case files. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act as substantial manual collation would be required in order to provide a response. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have

concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
Wellington 6143

Yours sincerely


Murray Edridge
**Deputy Chief Executive
Child, Youth and Family
Ministry of Social Development**

Admissions to Youth Justice residences (YJ) in the financial years ending June 2011 to June 2015 inclusive

| YJ Residence | 2011 | | | | | 2012 | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| | Jul-Sep 2010 | Oct-Dec 2010 | Jan-Mar 2011 | Apr-Jun 2011 | Total | Jul-Sep 2011 | Oct-Dec 2011 | Jan-Mar 2012 | Apr-Jun 2012 | Total |
| Korowai Manaaki (YJ North) | 62 | 57 | 55 | 51 | 225 | 71 | 80 | 46 | 72 | 269 |
| Te Au rere a te Tonga | 45 | 46 | 43 | 38 | 172 | 46 | 47 | 38 | 29 | 160 |
| Te Maioha o Parekarangi | 20 | 29 | 17 | 47 | 113 | 37 | 25 | 43 | 40 | 145 |
| Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo (YJ South) | 61 | 57 | 40 | 48 | 206 | 52 | 60 | 61 | 59 | 232 |
| Total | 188 | 189 | 155 | 184 | 716 | 206 | 212 | 188 | 200 | 806 |

| YJ Residence | 2013 | | | | | 2014 | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| | Jul-Sep 2012 | Oct-Dec 2012 | Jan-Mar 2013 | Apr-Jun 2013 | Total | Jul-Sep 2013 | Oct-Dec 2013 | Jan-Mar 2014 | Apr-Jun 2014 | Total |
| Korowai Manaaki (YJ North) | 81 | 79 | 65 | 73 | 298 | 62 | 89 | 72 | 77 | 300 |
| Te Au rere a te Tonga | 26 | 34 | 43 | 47 | 150 | 35 | 60 | 40 | 46 | 181 |
| Te Maioha o Parekarangi | 40 | 42 | 43 | 56 | 181 | 47 | 63 | 40 | 60 | 210 |
| Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo (YJ South) | 56 | 66 | 56 | 44 | 222 | 78 | 68 | 73 | 50 | 269 |
| Total | 203 | 221 | 207 | 220 | 851 | 222 | 280 | 225 | 233 | 960 |

| YJ Residence | 2015 | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | Jul-Sep 2014 | Oct-Dec 2014 | Jan-Mar 2015 | Apr-Jun 2015 | Total |
| Korowai Manaaki (YJ North) | 79 | 82 | 80 | 84 | 325 |
| Te Au rere a te Tonga | 51 | 74 | 47 | 61 | 233 |
| Te Maioha o Parekarangi | 45 | 59 | 47 | 54 | 205 |
| Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo (YJ South) | 59 | 65 | 69 | 54 | 247 |
| Total | 234 | 280 | 243 | 253 | 1,010 |

Notes:

This information relates to admission events.

There are young people who have more than one admission within a period.

These statistics are based on operational data and may vary from those published earlier.