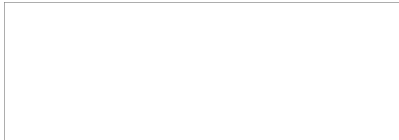




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

29 SEP 2016



Dear

On 14 July 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, correspondence between the Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Ministry relating to Youth Justice Residence monitoring reports. The Ministry would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

Children and young people who are ordered by the Youth Court to spend time in a Child, Youth and Family Youth Justice Residence often come from a difficult background and have already exhausted all other available options designed to address their offending behaviour.

A child or young person might be ordered to a Youth Justice Residence for the following reasons:

- They have been arrested by Police and their offending matters warrant them being placed in the custody of Child, Youth and Family pending their next Court appearance.
- They have been remanded by the Youth Court and are directed to a Youth Justice Residence until the Court deals with the case.
- They have been sentenced by the Youth Court for a period between three to six months; once they leave the Youth Justice Residence, they will be subject to six to twelve month's supervision in the community.
- If a young person is sentenced to a prison term in the adult Court, they may be admitted to a Youth Justice Residence to serve some or their entire sentence.

Children and young people in Youth Justice Residences have their own bedrooms, and access to communal areas including the living room and dining room. There is also a school building, a gym and areas for sports and outdoor activities. Trained staff work with the children and young people to run programs, provide support, mentoring and extra care for any child or young person presenting with significant risk factors. Education and health services are also provided to children and young people while they are in a Residence.

Further information and statistics regarding Youth Justice Residences can be found on the Child, Youth and Family website: www.cyf.govt.nz/youth-justice/youth-justice-residences.html and www.cyf.govt.nz/about-us/key-statistics/kids-in-care.html

Please find enclosed copies of the following correspondence between the Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Ministry regarding Youth Justice residence monitoring reports:

1. *'Residence Monitoring Visit to Te Maioha o Parekarangi Youth Justice'* dated March 2014
2. *'Prearranged residence monitoring visit to Korowai Manaaki'* dated July 2014
3. *'Prearranged Residence Monitoring Visit to Korowai Manaaki'* dated July 2014
4. *'Residence Monitoring Visit to Te Maioha'* dated August 2015
5. *'Residence Monitoring Visit to Te Au Rere A Te Tonga'* dated December 2015
6. *'Receipt of Monitoring Reports'* dated July 2016

You will note that the names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

The monitoring reports and meeting minutes referenced in the enclosed correspondence are withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act in order to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty. You have previously been provided with summarized versions of the monitoring reports which are publically available on the Ministry's website.

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 and attached documents available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments 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.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Edridge', written over a light grey circular stamp.

Murray Edridge
Deputy Chief Executive, Child, Youth and Family

7 December 2015

Justine Cornwall
Deputy Children's Commissioner
PO Box 5610
Wellington 6145

Tēnā koe Justine

Residence monitoring visit to Te Maioha o Parekarangi youth justice: March 2014

As you will be aware, in February 2015, staff from your office conducted a pre-arranged visit to Te Maioha o Parekarangi youth justice residence in Rotorua. The resulting report contained a number of recommendations for the residence's consideration.

On 3 November 2015 the Te Maioha o Parekarangi residence manager and CYF national office staff met with members of your office via videoconference to review the residence's action plan in response the recommendations. Please find enclosed, for your records and information, the minutes of the meeting.

Agreement was reached at the end of the meeting that appropriate actions have been taken to address the recommendation and OCC will likely pay an informal visit, outside of the monitoring programme, to Te Maioha o Parekarangi when the opportunity arises.

Yours sincerely

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

Relationship advisor to the Office of the Children's Commissioner
Child, Youth and Family

7 D cember 2015

Justine Cornwall
Deputy Children's Commissioner
PO Box 5610
Wellington 6145

T n  koe Justine

Prearranged residence monitoring visit to Korowai Manaaki: July 2014

In July 2014 staff from your office's monitoring and investigations team undertook a pre-arranged monitoring visit to the Korowai Manaaki youth justice residence in Auckland. The visit resulted in a number of recommendations.

On 17 June 2015, the Korowai Manaaki residence manager met with members of your office via videoconference to review the residence's response to these recommendations.

Agreement was reached at the end of the meeting that there would be a further review of progress in November 2015.

On 4 November 2015, the Korowai Manaaki residence manager and CYF national office staff met with members of your monitoring team to discuss the residence's progress in responding to the recommendations. The minutes from that meeting are attached.

Agreement was reached at the end of the meeting that good progress has been made to address the recommendations. While additional meetings are not required, a follow-up discussion will take place in February or March 2016 between the residence and OCC to consider progress.

Yours sincerely

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

[Redacted Signature]

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

Relationship advisor to the Office of the Children's Commissioner
Child, Youth and Family

safe
strong
families

29 June 2015

Justine Cornwall
Deputy Children's Commissioner
PO Box 5610
Wellington 6145

Dear Justine

Pre-arranged residence monitoring visit to Korowai Manaaki: July 2014

As you are aware, from 7 to 9 July 2014, staff from your office undertook a pre-arranged monitoring visit to the Korowai Manaaki youth justice residence in Auckland. The visit resulted in a number of recommendations for the residence's consideration.

On 17 June 2015 the Korowai Manaaki residence manager met with members of your office via videoconference to review the residence's progress with the recommendations. Please find enclosed, for your records and information, the minutes of the meeting. This manner of review is a new process agreed between Child, Youth and Family and your office. We believe that this process will enable more meaningful dialogue and reflection about progress by Child, Youth and Family, as well as giving real-time feedback to your office.

Agreement was reached at the end of the meeting that there will be a further review of progress in November 2015.

Yours sincerely

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

Relationship advisor to the Office of the Children's Commissioner
Child, Youth and Family

Copy: Brendan Boyle, Chief Executive, Ministry of Social Development



20 August 2015

Justine Cornwall
Deputy Children's Commissioner
PO Box 5610
Wellington 6145

Dear Justine

Residence monitoring visit to Te Maioha

Thank you for your final report from your visit to Child, Youth and Family's Te Maioha o Parekarangi residence on 2 – 4 February 2015.

I was pleased to see that overall the residence has been evaluated as well placed to provide services to young people.

As the report identified a number of recommendations for the residence, a videoconference is being arranged between your monitoring team and relevant Child, Youth and Family staff to discuss the actions that will be taken to address them. Minutes from the videoconference will then be shared with you.

Thank you again for your report.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Boyle
Chief Executive



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

7 DEC 2015

Justine Cornwall
Deputy Children's Commissioner
Office of the Children's Commissioner
PO Box 5610
Wellington 6145

Tēnā koe Justine

Residence monitoring visit to Te Au rere a te Tonga

Thank you for providing the final report from your office's monitoring visit in June of this year to Child, Youth and Family's Te Au rere a te Tonga Youth Justice residence.

I was very pleased to see that the residence received a rating of *Well placed* in each of the domains assessed, contributing to an overall assessment of *Well placed*.

While the report did not make any recommendations, and the usual next step of developing an action plan in response is not required in this case, the report and subsequent discussion with your monitoring team provided valuable feedback for the residence's continual improvement programme.

Thank you again for your report.

Yours sincerely


Brendan Boyle
Chief Executive

Judge Andrew Becroft
Children's Commissioner
PO Box 5601, Lampton Quay
WELLINGTON 6145

Dear Judge Becroft

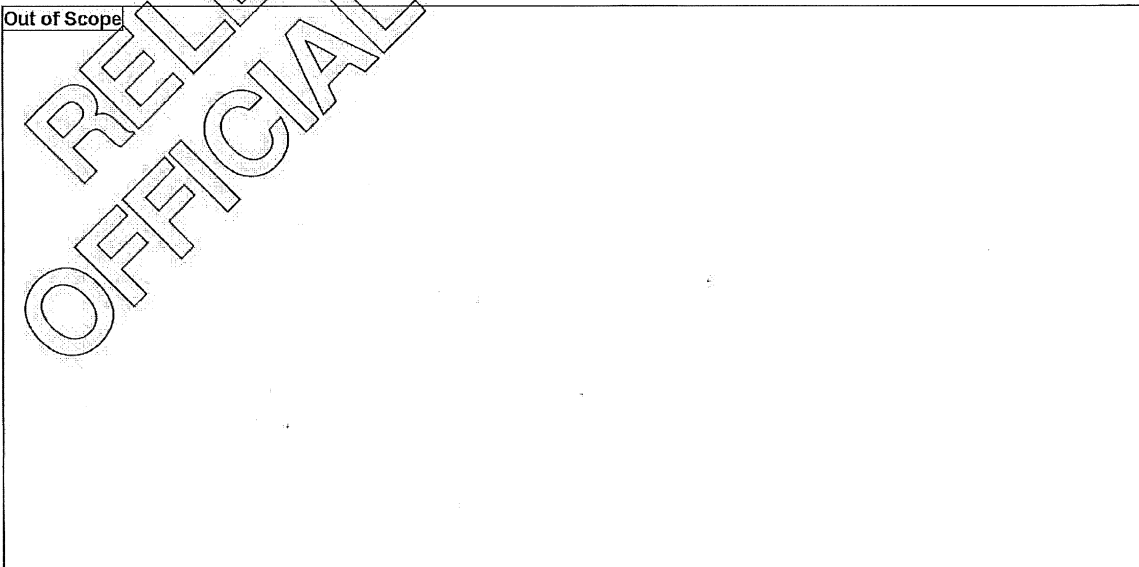
Receipt of monitoring reports

Justine Cornwall provided me with the three reports below before the end of her term as Deputy Children's Commissioner. I am writing to firstly thank your office for these reports. I appreciate the time and consideration that has gone into monitoring Child, Youth and Family residences and developing these reports. Secondly, I want to update you on Child, Youth and Family's response to the reports.

State of Care report

Child, Youth and Family are working to develop a response to the recommendations in the State of Care report in line with the Child, Youth and Family Business Plan 2016/2017 and within the context of the Investing in Children programme. Child, Youth and Family will keep your monitoring team up to date as this progresses.

Out of Scope



Out of Scope

[Redacted content]

Out of Scope

[Redacted content]

Thank you again for your reports.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Boyle
Chief Executive

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT