

16 April 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 21 March 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on safety and security incidents at Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo Youth Justice residence. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo is a facility in Christchurch, for male and female rangatahi who have been placed in a secure youth justice residence by the court.

Kaimahi at the residence work hard to maintain the safety, security and wellbeing of everyone at the site. However, secure residences are complex and dynamic environments, where incidents can occur. These can vary over time for reasons including the needs and characteristics of the cohort of young people. Oranga Tamariki kaimahi, alongside other professionals such as clinical teams, work to help rangatahi address any potentially harmful behaviours.

Data in this request has been drawn from two systems – our current and previous incident reporting platforms. The previous platform was used for incident reporting until October 2023, and had a lower number of reported incidents (354 in 2023). There was a transition period from July 2023, which means some incidents may have been duplicated across the systems. Please be aware that these two systems do not have categories broken down into the incident types that you have requested.

I have provided information on the incidents reported from the current system in the tables below.

Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo incident data from 18 July 2023 to 1 January 2026 – by date

Year	Number of incidents reported
2023	114
2024	1070
2025	1257
2026 (1 January only)	7
Total	2448

Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo incident data from 18 July 2023 to 1 January 2026 – by category

Category	Number of incidents reported
Hazard	12
Health and Safety	416
Near Miss	35
Security	1985
Total	2448

Other data in this response has been drawn from records held by Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo. Leaders monitor incidents at secure youth justice residences on an ongoing basis, including considering trends, using information from both using both system data and manual reporting from the residence. Again, this data is not broken down into all of the categories that you have requested.

Providing breakdowns in the manner you have requested would require manual review of thousands of reports and cross-referencing with information held at the residence. Therefore, I have provided breakdowns of information that match your requests as closely as possible where this is available. However, some parts of your request are refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it would require substantial manual collation to provide.

Please note that all information provided in this response is operational data and subject to change.

I have responded to each of your requests below.

For the period of 01 January 2023 through 01 January 2026 at Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo Youth Justice residence. Please provide statistical information for the following type of safety and security incidents.

- 1. Unlawful substances and other contraband found inside the residence and the suspected source.*

This information cannot be provided without substantial manual collation and is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

- 2. Assaults against young people, and specifically multiple assaults against the same young person by the same aggressor.*

In 2023, 53 incidents classed as assaults (against rangatahi or kaimahi) were recorded in the previous system.

Current data on such incidents reported in from 2023 to 2026 is provided in the table below.

Year	Incidents reported
2023 (1 July - 31 December)	39
2024	54
2025	107
2026 (1 January only)	0
Total	200

Please note that the part of your question regarding multiple assaults involving the same rangatahi cannot be provided without substantial manual collation and is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

3. *Assaults against staff and medical leave resulting from assault*

Information on the number of incidents recorded as involving an assault against staff is provided in the table below. Please note that, in 2023, incident recording grouped together injuries or assaults towards staff, including accidental harm.

Year	Incidents reported
2023	39
2024	38
2025	96
2026 (1 January only)	0
Total	174

We are unable to provide information on medical leave resulting from assault, as this is not information that can be specifically filtered for in our system. In order to provide this information, we would need to undertake a manual review of all leave requests relating to medical leave, which would constitute substantial manual collation. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

4. *Escape attempts*

This information cannot be provided without substantial manual collation and is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

5. *Incidents involving sexual contact and harassment involving male and female young people.*

Information on the number of incidents recorded as involving sexualised behaviour is provided in the table below. Please note that data is not available for 2023 for this category. An incident involving sexualised behaviour does not necessarily mean that there was 'contact' or 'harassment' between young people, nor do we have information about the gender of the young people involved. For example, this data might include incidents where a young person had made sexualised comments to a staff member.

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Year	Incidents reported
2024	0
2025	11
2026 (1 January only)	0
Total	11

6. *Grievances filed by young people.*

Information on the number of completed grievances at Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo is provided in the table below. Please note that data is not yet available for 1 January 2026.

Year	Number of completed grievances
2023	105
2024	227
2025	122
Total	454

7. *Employment related grievances filed by staff.*

Information about the number of employment-related grievances filed by staff at Te Puna Wai o Tuhinapo Youth Justice Residence can be found in the table below.

Year	Number of grievances
2023	5
2024	1
2025	2
Total	8

Please note that several kaimahi have put in more than one personal grievance covering the matters of one event, so the above data may not reflect the number of incidents about which a grievance has been filed.

The term “grievance” in this context has been interpreted to refer to personal grievances as defined under sections 102 and 103 of the Employment Relations Act 2000.

8. *Incidents that occurred during transport of young people to court and other appointments.*

This information cannot be provided without substantial manual collation and is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

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I trust you find this information useful. If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Wilson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn Wilson
Chief Advisor
Youth Justice Services and Residential Care