

14 December 2023

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 30 October 2023 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting information around custodial remand placements. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

Could you please provide me with the length (in days) of the 10 longest custodial remand placements for young people in Oranga Tamariki residences for each year from 2017 to 2022?

If it is easier to provide data for financial years (e.g., 2017/18 etc) that would be fine.

On 27 November we advised that the consultations necessary to make a decision on this request were such that a proper response could not have been reasonably be made within the original time limit. For this reason, the time limit for providing you with the information was extended to 22 December 2023, in accordance with section 15A(1)(b) of the Act.

Youth Justice residences provide safe, secure, and supportive environments where young people can get their lives back on track and improve their prospects for the future. There are five youth justice residences in New Zealand:

- Korowai Manaaki in South Auckland
- Whakatakapokai in South Auckland
- Te Maioha o Parekarangi in Rotorua
- Te Au rere a te Tonga in Palmerston North, and
- Te Puna Wai o Tūhinapō

The table on the following page sets out the 10 longest custodial remand placements for the calendar years 2017 to 2022.

Top longest remands (ranked)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	390	731	446	505	695*	524
2	378	632	401	435	568	491
3	370	595	384	389	549	488
4	360	491	318	362	403	459
5	346	460	311	341	348	430
6	314	424	278	270	318	338
7	278	412	278	264	291	337
8	277	391	243	260	271	328
9	276	381	243	250	266	295
10	272	363	229	239	264	277

* Person remains on remand

Remand includes the legal statuses of section 238(1)(d) of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989; section 173, section 175(1A), and section 175(2) of the Criminal Procedure Act 2011; and section 142(4B) of the Criminal Justice Act 1985.

The average duration on remand since July 2017 is 42 days, with there being little change in this since the 2019/20 financial year. Following a change in the jurisdiction of the Youth Justice system which extended to 17-year-olds from 1 July 2019 the number of young people held on remand has increased.

There are a number of reasons for long remand periods. They can be attributed to the most complex cases. For example, those involving serious matters, scheduled for defended hearings in the District and High Court for trial by jury, particularly when there are adult co offenders involved.

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

I trust you find this information useful. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with us directly by contacting OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman by contacting them on 0800 802 602 or www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie Miller
General Manager
Monitoring and External Relationships