

Terms of Reference

Christchurch Women's Prison Announced Inspection

Authority

1. The Office of the Inspectorate is authorised under section 29(1)(b) of the Corrections Act 2004 to undertake inspections and visits to prisons. Section 157 of the Act provides that when undertaking an Inspection, Inspectors have the power to access any prisoners, personnel, records, information, Corrections vehicles or property.

Purpose

2. The purpose of a prison inspection is to:
 - a) ensure a safe, secure and humane environment by gaining insight into all relevant parts of prison life including any areas of good practice or innovation and emerging risks or issues,
 - b) assess prison conditions, management procedures and operational practices against relevant legislation and our Inspection Standards (which derive from international principles),
 - c) produce a report that includes findings on how the prison environment and the treatment of prisoners could be improved.

Timeframes

3. The Office of the Inspectorate will undertake an announced inspection of Christchurch Women's Prison. The inspection will be undertaken from **Thursday 6 August to Friday 14 August 2026**.
4. The draft inspection reports will be provided to the Commissioner Custodial Services and the Deputy Chief Executive Pae Ora before being finalised. The Chief Inspector will keep the Chief Executive informed on progress made to finalise the inspection report.

Assessment Approach

5. The prison will be assessed against the Inspection Standards that derive from the United Nations Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners ('the Nelson Mandela Rules'), and HM Inspectorate of Prisons Expectations (England's equivalent criteria for assessing the treatment of and conditions for men in prisons), the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (known as the 'Bangkok Rules') and the Yogyakarta Principles, and other international instruments.
6. Inspection assessments are guided by four key principles:
 - **Safety:** prisoners are held safely
 - **Respect:** prisoners are treated with respect for human dignity

- **Purposeful Activity:** prisoners are able, and expect, to engage in activity that is likely to benefit them
- **Reintegration:** prisoners are prepared for release into the community and helped to reduce their likelihood of re-offending.

Scope

7. Inspectors will use the Inspection Standards to assess 10 areas of prison life: leadership; prison staff; reception, induction and escorts; duty of care; health (including substance use, mental health and disabled prisoners); environment; good order; purposeful activity; rehabilitation; and reintegration.
8. Inspectors may also evaluate compliance with:
 - the *Corrections Act 2004* and the *Corrections Regulations 2005*;
 - policies and procedure documents that inform the day to day operations of the prison.

Inspection Approach

9. Four Inspectors will form the Inspection team: Nick Lawton, Katrina Wolfgramm, Manoj Gounder and Tim Saunders. The team will be supported by Principal Inspector Julia Prescott who will oversee the inspection requirements for other non-health related areas of prison life. Principal Clinical Inspector Fiona Irving and Clinical Inspector Annie Vékony will assess and oversee any health-related matters. Assistant Chief Inspector Russell Underwood will oversee the leadership standards.
10. Inspectors will access all parts of the prison, subject to any operational or incident management requirements.
11. Inspection assessments will be informed by information and operational guidance and policy, data, external oversight agency reports (where applicable), formal and informal interviews with staff and prisoners, discussions with contracted service providers and volunteers (if applicable), relevant Department of Corrections strategies (e.g. Hōkai Rangī), and direct observation and evidence gathering (including photographs if appropriate) of the prison environment, procedures, records and staff practice.

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Janis Adair
 Chief Inspector
 Office of the Inspectorate

18/06/2026

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Date