

Section (9)(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 90935

Tēnā koe Section (9)(2)(a)

Official Information Act 1982 request: Drug/alcohol addiction and mental health distress in the Justice system

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 22 September 2021 to the Ministry of Justice (Ministry). You are seeking information around people who go through the court system with underlying drug and/or alcohol addiction. Specifically, your requested:

I'd be very grateful for any recent data, or research papers, held by the Justice Ministry around the numbers of people who go through the Court system with underlying drug and/or alcohol addiction prior to their incarceration, as well as mental distress/illness (which as you know goes hand-in-hand).

On the same day, you refined your request to the following:

I'm only interested in recent, up-to-date material (say in the last few years) but I don't really want to put a scope of the timeframe for research as sometimes the best/most relevant material can be from 10 years ago for example. I'm basically interested in the revolving door of people getting locked up because of substance abuse/mental health illnesses...so anything around the effectiveness of the Drug Courts would be useful.

In response to your request of any recent data or research papers. We have gathered a list of research data relating to Alcohol and other Drugs and mental health/illness prior to incarceration. As the papers/research are publicly available, I am refusing your OIA request under section 18(d) of the Act. However, links to the documents have been provided under appendix A.

If you require further information, please contact Alison Horwood, Media Manager on 021 636 416, or email: media@justice.govt.nz. If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Brendan Gage
General Manager, Criminal Justice Policy

Appendix A – Documents refused under s18(d)

Title	Owner	URL
Preserving the Dignity of the Mentally Unwell: Therapeutic Opportunities for the Criminal Courts in New Zealand	Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy	www.fulbright.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/LUNT-Preserving-the-Dignity-of-the-Mentally-Unwell-Therapeutic-Opportunities-for-the-Criminal-Courts-of-New-Zealand-.pdf
People in the justice system have high use of mental health and addiction services	Ministry of Justice	www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Mental-health-and-the-Justice-System.pdf
Mental health Courts – Evidence brief	Ministry of Justice	www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Mental-Health-Courts.pdf
Correctional Alcohol and Drug treatment – Investment Brief	Ministry of Justice	www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/investment-brief-alcohol-and-drug-treatment.pdf
Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Courts Outcomes Evaluation 2018-2019	Ministry of Justice	www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/AODTC-Summary-Evaluation-Report-June-2019.pdf