

21 January 2026

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OIA 30587

Thank you for your email of 2 December 2025, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I am writing to request the following information from MFAT under the Official Information Act 1982 regarding New Zealand citizens currently held in prisons overseas.

Please provide, for the most recent date available (or as at 1 December 2025 if a specific snapshot date is required by your system):

- 1. The total number of New Zealand citizens imprisoned overseas, broken down by:*
 - Country*
 - Gender*
 - Whether they are on **remand** or **sentenced***
- 2. **If recorded**, please also provide the **length of time** each individual has been detained or, if this cannot be released at an individual level, please provide:*
 - Aggregate time bands (e.g., under 1 year, 1-3 years, 3-5 years, 5+ years), broken down by country.*
- 3. **If MFAT does not hold all of this information**, please clarify:*
 - What information is held*
 - What information is available only at an aggregate level*

What information is not collected or cannot be released for privacy or diplomatic reasons."

Information relevant to your request can be found in **Appendix one** and is also provided in PDF format (attached). Where totals were fewer than five, the data has been withheld or aggregated into broader regional groupings to protect privacy and maintain data reliability.

Please note this is not a complete list of all New Zealanders in detention overseas, as New Zealanders may choose not to advise the New Zealand Government of their detention, as is their right under international law.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website:

www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a small upward stroke.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Appendix one –

Total Number of New Zealand Citizens Incarcerated Overseas				
Location	Total Incarcerated	Total Remanded	Total Sentenced	Unknown
Australia	14	10	4	-
Asia	31	4	23	4
Americas	19	3	13	3
Europe	6	3	1	2
Other	7	1	4	2

Gender Breakdown of New Zealand Citizens Incarcerated Overseas		
Location	Total Female Incarcerated	Total Male incarcerated
Australia	2	12
Asia	8	23
Americas	5	14
Europe	1	5
Other	1	6

Detention Duration of New Zealand Citizens Incarcerated Overseas					
Location	Sentenced under 1 year	Sentenced 1-3year	Sentenced 3-5 year	Sentenced 5+ year	Unknown
Australia	9	2	-	-	3
Asia	9	9	5	8	-
Americas	5	2	3	9	-
Europe	6	-	-	-	-
Other	1	3	1	1	1