

Sector Overview

Justice Sector

Sector Overview Statement

Sector Outcomes

The sector's overall outcome is 'A Safe and Just Society' for New Zealand. For this outcome to be achieved, communities need to be safe and individuals need to feel secure and that they live in a society where civil and democratic rights and obligations are upheld. The interdependent nature of the sector means that agencies need to work together and share information, as decisions made in one part of the system often impact on other parts of the system.

The justice sector outcomes reflect how justice sector agencies contribute to a safe and just society. These outcomes are:

- Crime Reduced
- Offenders Held to Account
- Impact of Crime Reduced
- Trusted Justice System
- Accessible Justice Services
- Internationally Connected
- Durable Settlements of Treaty Claims
- Effective Constitutional Arrangements

Medium-Term Priorities

Six medium term priorities have been identified for the justice sector, as follows:

- *Crime Reduced* - Improving public safety
- *Crime Reduced* - Addressing the drivers of offending and re-offending
- *Crime Reduced* - Addressing Māori over-representation in the criminal justice system
- *Impact of Crime Reduced* - Improving the responsiveness of the justice system to victims
- *Offenders Held to Account* - Improving the functioning and efficiency of criminal court processes
- *Trusted Justice System* - Improved satisfaction with justice sector services

Focusing on activities that contribute to the priority areas is expected to lead to the biggest gains for the sector in the medium term. Key trends and issues within each medium term priority follow.

Improving Public Safety

Why is this a priority?

The first priority of any justice system is to protect its citizenry. Crime has an obvious impact on physical wellbeing, and also has a large economic cost. However, the threat of crime also has an impact on quality of life. Anxiety about being victimised can limit people's lifestyles and their freedom to participate fully in society.

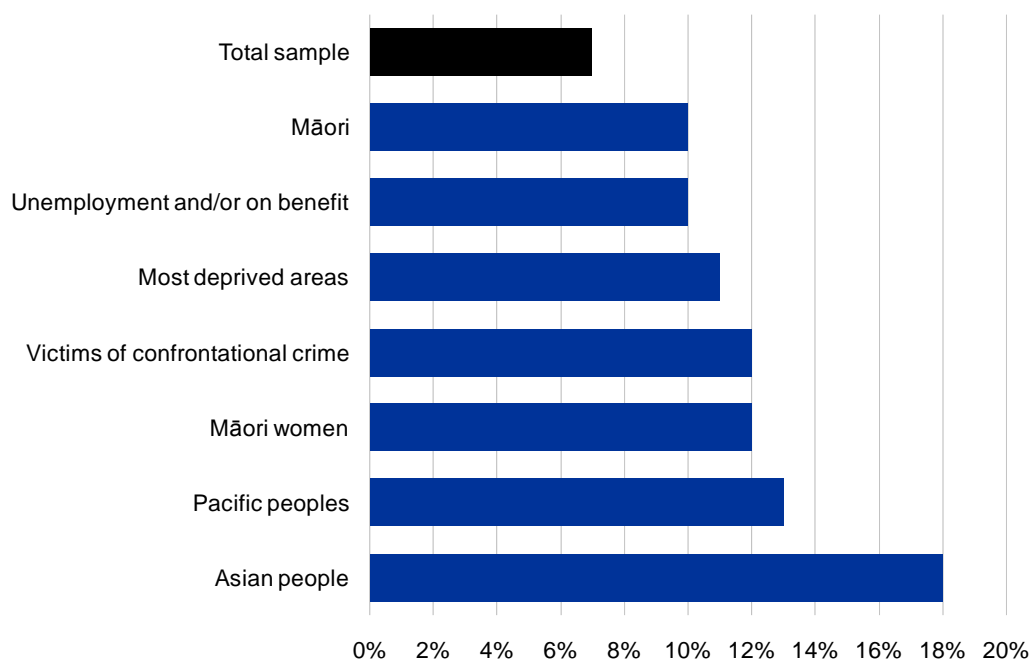
Although reducing the incidence of crime is a longer term priority in its own right, the justice sector can contribute to public safety through its own activities, including holding offenders to account and imposing appropriate consequences for their behaviour, improving police visibility in the community and enhancing the tools at their disposal, and enhancing prison security.

How will the sector demonstrate its success?

An improvement in public safety will not only result from a reduction in recorded crime, but also where increased confidence in the activities of the justice sector lead to a reduction in fear of crime. The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey asks respondents to rate how fear of crime affects the quality of life. The impact of fear of crime was scored on a 0-10 scale, where 0 is no effect and 10 is total effect on quality of life.

The survey showed that in 2005, 40% of New Zealanders said that fear of crime had a moderate or high impact on the quality of their life (a score of 4 or above), while 7% scored it at 8-10. The graph below shows what proportion of each of various subgroups of respondents is highly affected by the fear of crime.

Figure 1 - Groups whose quality of life is highly affected by fear of crime



Percentage of those greatly affected by fear of crime - ie, those who gave a response of 8 to 10 on a scale of 10

Addressing the Drivers of Offending and Re-offending

Why is this a priority?

To achieve a significant and enduring impact on the incidence of crime, the justice sector must address the factors that lead to offending in the first place. This means developing an understanding of and where possible responses to the drivers of crime at several different stages:

- Prior to offending, at the earliest stages of child development
- First offending, generally youth
- Re-offending, post-sentence

How will the sector demonstrate its success?

Success in reducing offending will ultimately be reflected in levels of recorded crime. Although total offences have decreased, largely as the result of a reduction in dishonesty offences, violent crime has increased.

Outcomes from policies that address the pre-offending stage of development will take the longest to flow through. This will rely on co-operation with the education, social development and health sectors, to identify risk factors in childhood and adolescence that, in combination, indicate an increased likelihood of future offending and poor outcomes, while at the same time identifying those protective factors that reduce the likelihood of offending.

For sentenced offenders, the Department of Corrections provides a range of rehabilitative and re-integrative programmes which can lead to significant reductions in re-conviction and re-imprisonment when delivered to appropriately selected offenders. The two figures below show that although there are clear differences in rates of re-conviction and re-imprisonment across different ethnic groups, there has been no significant change in overall trends of re-offending.

Figure 2 - Re-conviction rates, 12 months after release

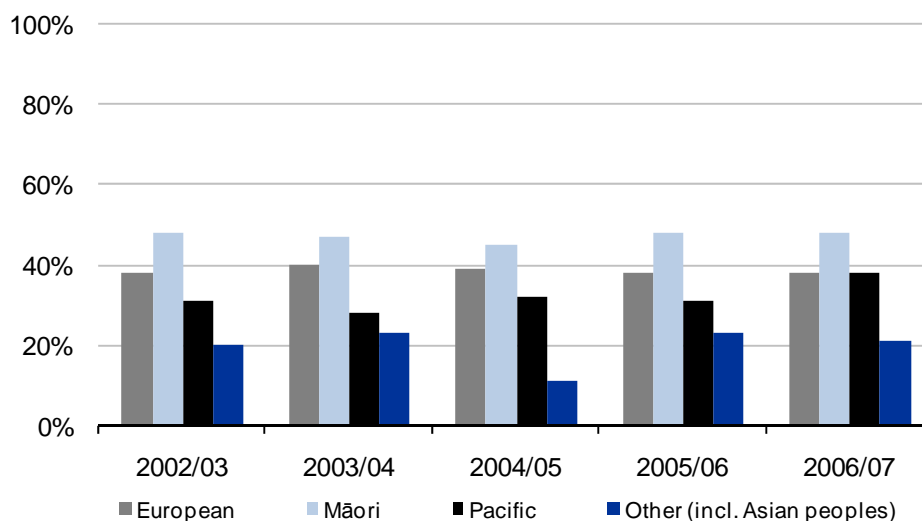
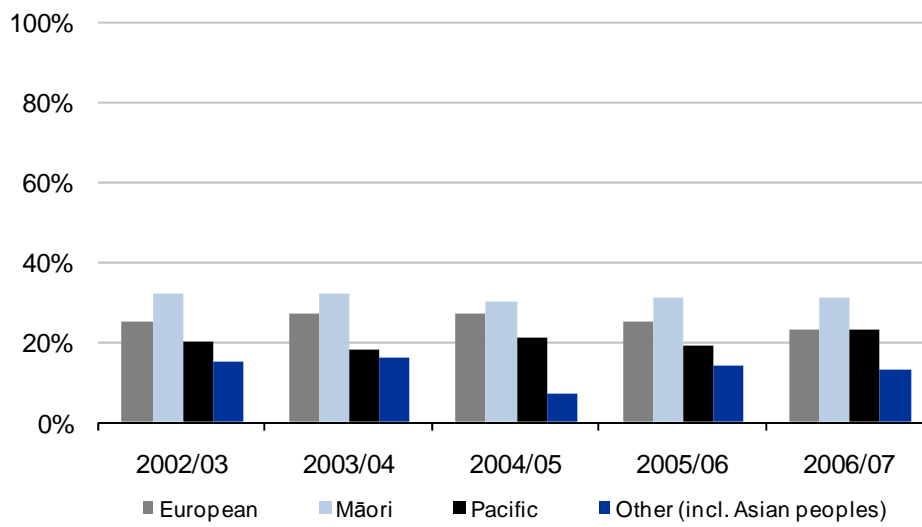


Figure 3 - Re-imprisonment rates, 12 months after release

Addressing Māori Over-Representation in the Criminal Justice System

Why is this a priority?

Māori are disproportionately represented as both offenders and victims in New Zealand’s criminal justice system. Adjusting for the size of different populations, in 2003 four to five times as many Māori as Europeans were apprehended, prosecuted and convicted. Six to seven times as many Māori were given a custodial sentence or were serving prison sentences, and eleven times as many were remanded in custody awaiting trial. However, Māori are also much more likely than other ethnic groups to be victims of crime. Any reduction in Maori offending that can be achieved will have a significant positive impact on the overall crime rate.

How will the sector demonstrate its success?

Key information on monitoring success in the medium term will be drawn from convictions data, as outlined below.

Figure 4 - Total convictions: all categories

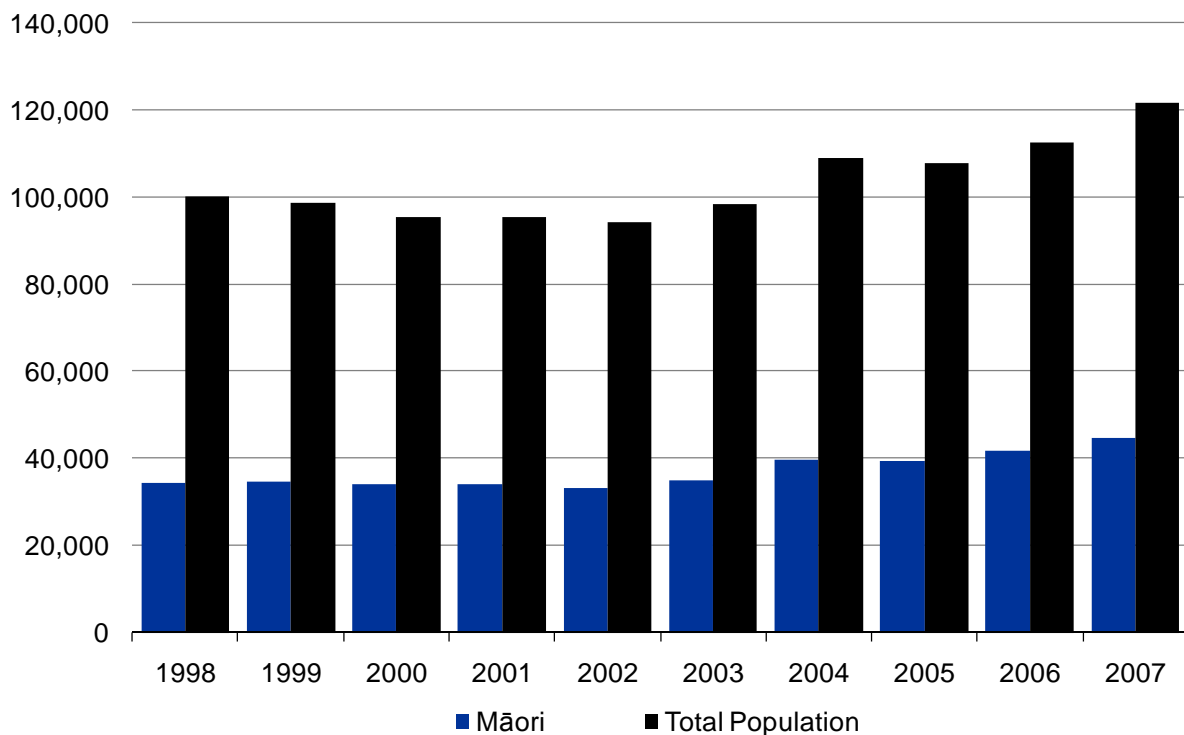
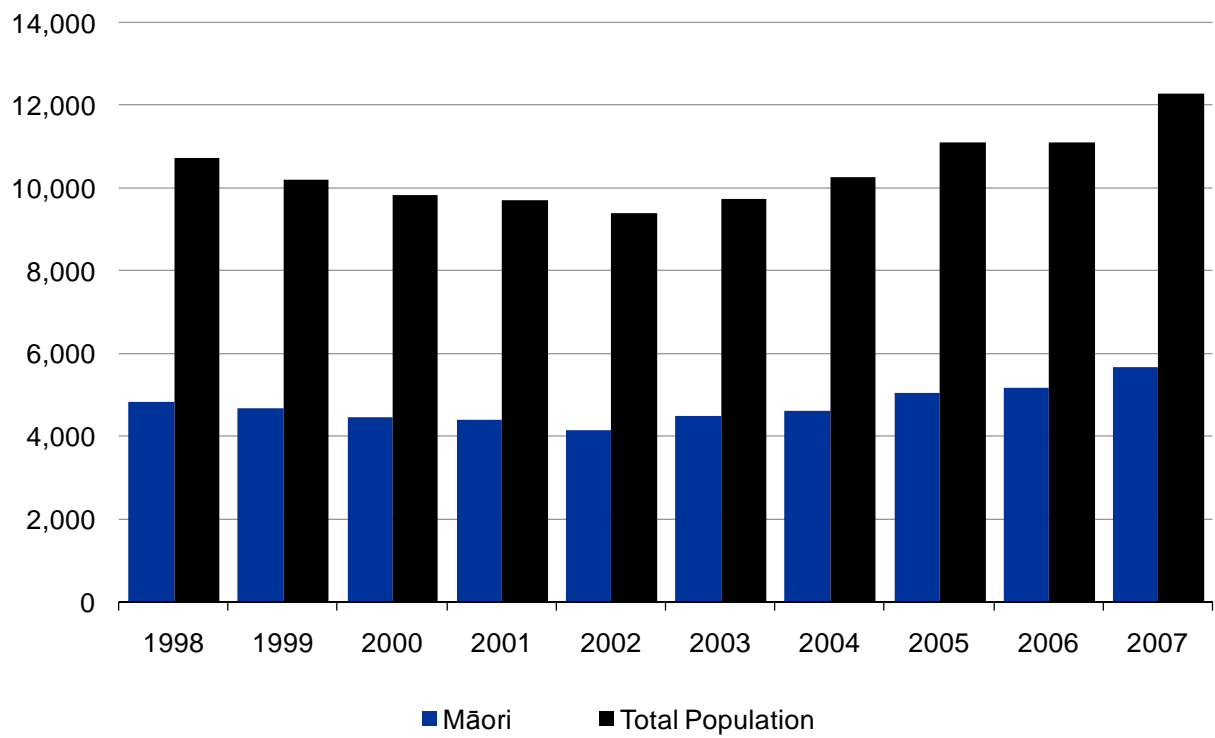


Figure 5 - Total convictions: violence category

Improving the Responsiveness of the Justice System to Victims

Why is this a priority?

The priorities already outlined above should have the effect of reducing the number of victims of crime. But when crime does occur, the justice sector will work to ensure that the victims of that offending are supported throughout the criminal justice process.

The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (2006) reports that only about a third of offences are reported to Police, although reporting rates vary by type of offence. The impact of crime is also unevenly spread: 60% of New Zealanders reported no victimisations in 2005, but 6% reported five or more victimisations. Those who were less well off, both economically and socially, were more likely to be victimised, creating a further source of inequity.

Improving the victim notification system, victims' rights and information accessibility in the justice system, will improve the responsiveness of the justice system to victims.

How will the sector demonstrate its success?

The next New Zealand Crime and Safety survey was launched early in 2009, and will provide updated information on the extent of victimisation and how victims view the effectiveness of the support available to them.

The justice sector is engaged in a number of initiatives to improve responsiveness to victims. The Enhancing Victims Rights review aims to identify key legislative, policy and operational changes that can be made across a range of agencies to better support victims through the process.

In addition, the Sentencing (Offender Levy) Amendment Bill imposes a levy on all offenders at the point of sentencing, to increase services and support for victims of serious crime.

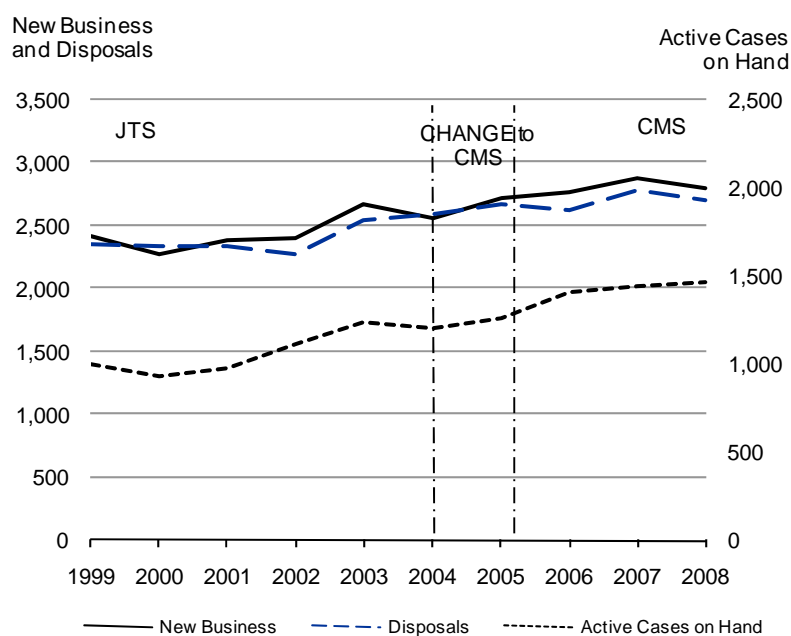
Improving the Functioning and Efficiency of Criminal Court Processes

Why is this a priority?

Improving the functioning and efficiency of the criminal court process will contribute to the outcomes of holding offenders to account, minimising the impact of crime on victims, and building a trusted justice system.

Although the courts have already improved the rate at which they dispose of cases, this is being outstripped by increasing demand for criminal court processes, due to faster growth in the number of prosecutions, and the increasing complexity of cases and the duration of trials.

Figure 6 - District Court: criminal summary throughput



For example, the number of District Court criminal jury trials increased 36%, but the number of cases on hand has grown by 56%. Similarly, the number of cases on hand in High Court jury trials has also seen a significant growth in the last two years, driven largely by methamphetamine cases.

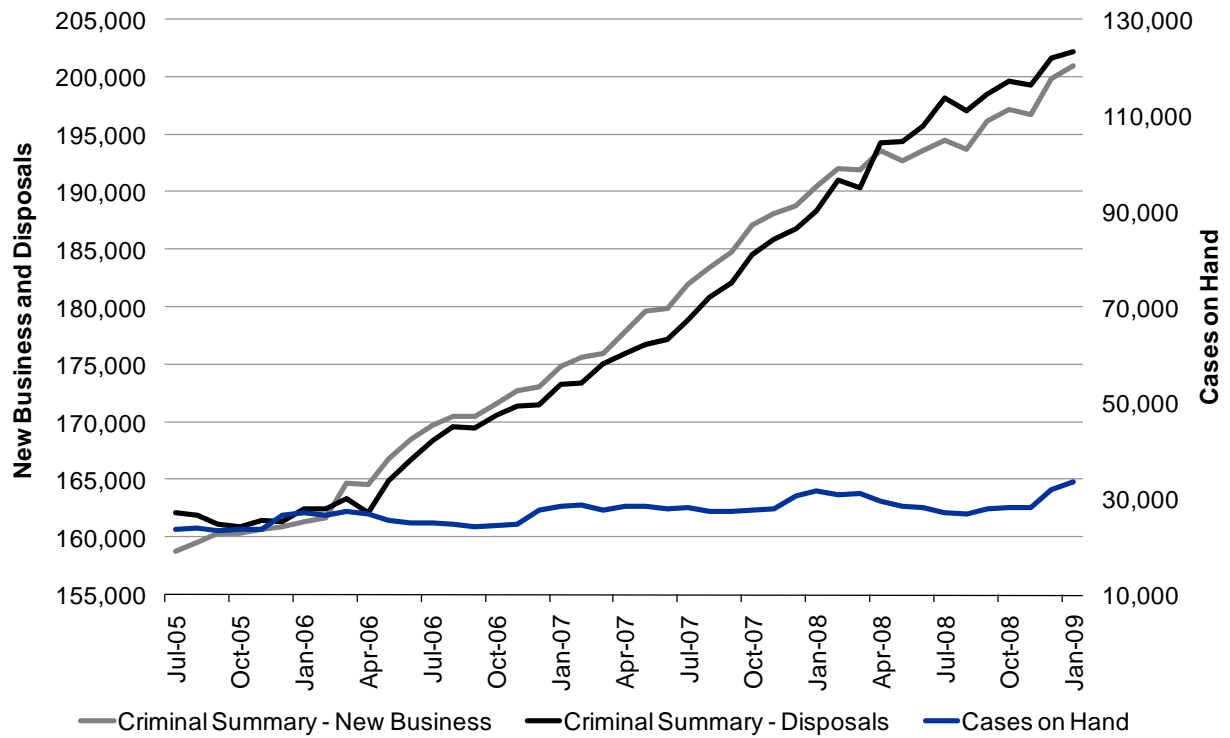
Delays in the court process means delayed justice for both victims and offenders. It also has flow-on effects to other parts of the justice sector, such as increased demand for Corrections facilities for those remanded in custody for longer periods.

How will the sector demonstrate its success?

Improvements to court services will be progressed through initiatives to simplify court procedures and the review of legal aid.

Monitoring will be undertaken of key measures, including active cases on hand, and summary throughput.

Figure 7 - Criminal summary throughput, rolling twelve month totals



Improved Satisfaction with Justice Sector Services

Why is this a priority?

To be effective, the justice sector must be trusted and have the confidence of individuals and communities. Although breakdowns in accepted processes within the system are rare, they have the potential to have life and death consequences, and understandably pose a risk to public trust in the justice system.

Since 1999 there is some evidence which indicates a decline in the level of trust in the criminal justice system.

Figure 8 - Criminal justice groups rated as doing a good or excellent job: 1999 and 2006

Agency	1999 NZCASS	2006 NZCASS	Variance
Police	74%	60%	-14%
Juries	63%	59%	-4%
Judges	42%	47%	5%
Criminal Lawyers	45%	44%	-1%
Probation Officers	50%	41%	-9%
Prison Service	39%	40%	1%

How will the sector demonstrate its success?

The 2009 New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey will provide new information on the changing levels of satisfaction and trust with the criminal justice system. This information will be available in 2010.

Ministerial Statements of Responsibility

Each of us is satisfied that the information on future operating intentions provided by our respective departments and included in the *Information Supporting the Estimates* for the Justice Sector is in accordance with sections 38 and 41 of the Public Finance Act 1989 and is consistent with the policies and performance expectations of the government.



Hon Simon Power

Responsible Minister for the Ministry of Justice
22 April 2009



Hon Judith Collins

Responsible Minister for the Department of
Corrections
Responsible Minister for the New Zealand Police
Responsible Minister for the Serious Fraud Office
22 April 2009



Hon Christopher Finlayson

Responsible Minister for the Crown Law Office
Responsible Minister for the Parliamentary Counsel
Office
22 April 2009

Chief Executive Statements of Responsibility

Ministry of Justice

In signing this statement, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the information contained in the *Information Supporting the Estimates* for the Justice Sector relating to the Ministry of Justice and for the Votes for which the Ministry of Justice is the administering department. Specifically, this information is contained in the Ministry of Justice's statement of forecast service performance, forecast financial statements and statement of intent.

This information has been prepared in accordance with the Public Finance Act 1989. It is also consistent with the proposed appropriations set out in the Appropriation (2009/10 Estimates) Bill, as presented to the House of Representatives in accordance with section 13 of the Public Finance Act 1989, and with existing appropriations and financial authorities



Belinda Clark
Secretary for Justice and Chief Executive
Ministry of Justice
22 April 2009



Lara Ariell
Chief Financial Officer
Ministry of Justice
22 April 2009
Counter-signed

Department of Corrections

In signing this statement, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the information contained in the *Information Supporting the Estimates* for the Justice Sector relating to the Department of Corrections and for the Vote for which the Department of Corrections is the administering department. Specifically, this information is contained in the Department of Corrections's statement of forecast service performance, forecast financial statements and statement of intent.

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Barry Matthews
Chief Executive
Department of Corrections
22 April 2009

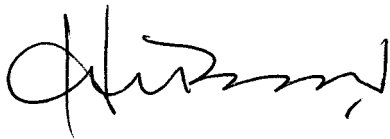


John Bole
General Manager Business Information and
Planning
Department of Corrections
22 April 2009
Counter-signed

New Zealand Police

In signing this statement, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the information contained in the *Information Supporting the Estimates* for the Justice Sector relating to the New Zealand Police and for the Vote for which the New Zealand Police is the administering department. Specifically, this information is contained in the New Zealand Police's statement of forecast service performance, forecast financial statements and statement of intent.

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Howard Broad
Commissioner of Police
New Zealand Police
22 April 2009



Bruce Simpson
General Manager Finance and Planning
New Zealand Police
22 April 2009
Counter-signed

Serious Fraud Office

In signing this statement, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the information contained in the *Information Supporting the Estimates* for the Justice Sector relating to the Serious Fraud Office and for the Vote for which the Serious Fraud Office is the administering department. Specifically, this information is contained in the Serious Fraud Office's statement of forecast service performance, forecast financial statements and statement of intent.

This information has been prepared in accordance with the Public Finance Act 1989. It is also consistent with the proposed appropriations set out in the Appropriation (2009/10 Estimates) Bill, as presented to the House of Representatives in accordance with section 13 of the Public Finance Act 1989, and with existing appropriations and financial authorities.



Grant Liddell
Director
Serious Fraud Office
22 April 2009



Gib Beattie
Assistant Director
Serious Fraud Office
22 April 2009
Counter-signed

Crown Law Office

In signing this statement, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the information contained in the *Information Supporting the Estimates* for the Justice Sector relating to the Crown Law Office and for the Vote for which the Crown Law Office is the administering department. Specifically, this information is contained in the Crown Law Office's statement of forecast service performance, forecast financial statements and statement of intent.

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Dr David Collins QC
Solicitor-General and Chief Executive
Crown Law Office
22 April 2009

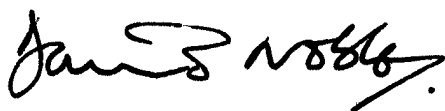


Chris Walker
Chief Financial Officer
Crown Law Office
22 April 2009
Counter-signed

Parliamentary Counsel Office

In signing this statement, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the information contained in the *Information Supporting the Estimates* for the Justice Sector relating to the Parliamentary Counsel Office and for the Vote for which the Parliamentary Counsel Office is the administering department. Specifically, this information is contained in the Parliamentary Counsel Office's statement of forecast service performance, forecast financial statements and statement of intent.

This information has been prepared in accordance with the Public Finance Act 1989. It is also consistent with the proposed appropriations set out in the Appropriation (2009/10 Estimates) Bill, as presented to the House of Representatives in accordance with section 13 of the Public Finance Act 1989, and with existing appropriations and financial authorities.



David Noble
Chief Parliamentary Counsel
Parliamentary Counsel Office
22 April 2009



Noel Lee
Corporate Services Manager
Parliamentary Counsel Office
22 April 2009
Counter-signed

