



8 August 2025



Reference: OIA-2025/26-0065

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to the link between the national emergency alerts and the discovery of contraband cell phones

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 31 July 2025. You requested:

"I am interested if there is any link between the National Emergency Alerts and the discovery of contraband cell phones in NZ prisons. I have asked Corrections to supply data on the number of contraband cell phones discovered, by day over the year to 31 July 2025. Please supply the dates which the National Emergency Management Agency has pushed emergency alerts to cell phones over the same period for comparison of the two datasets."

On 6 August 2025 we confirmed with you that you were seeking information for the following date range:

"I intended it to be the 12 months to 31 July 2025, not the calendar year to date."

I can confirm that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) issued nine Emergency Mobile Alerts from 31 July 2024 to 31 July 2025. The dates the Emergency Mobile Alerts were issued by NEMA are listed below:

4 October 2024
4 October 2024
5 October 2024
25 March 2025
25 March 2025
9 April 2025
25 May 2025 (nationwide test message)
30 July 2025
31 July 2025

For completeness, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Holland
Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive