

8 July 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 3 June 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on re-offending rates of Military-Style Academy pilot programme participants and youth justice residents. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

Under the Official Information Act, could I please request data on the number of young people who participated in the pilot military-style academies and have since re-offended?

I'd be grateful for this information broken down in a way that shows:

- *the number of young people who participated in the pilot military-style academies*
- *the number of young people who have re-offended since their time in the programme, broken down by age range and type of offence*
- *the percentage of young people who left other youth justice residences in the past 12 months (not military-style academies), who have re-offended.*

The purpose of the Military-Style Academy (MSA) Programmes is to support rangatahi with some of the most serious and persistent offending behaviours to move away from offending and enable them to thrive within their whānau and communities.

The programmes consist of a military-style residential programme, followed by an in-community stage. The design is centred around wellbeing, education, promotion of positive cultural identity, physical activity, careers, life skills and therapeutic intervention.

To date there has been an MSA Pilot (July 2024 – July 2025) and a second MSA Programme which commenced in March 2026 and is currently underway.

I have responded to each part of your request below.

the number of young people who participated in the pilot military-style academies

Ten young people commenced on the MSA Pilot, however, one rangatahi withdrew early in the programme and was replaced. Therefore, 11 rangatahi in total participated in the Pilot.

In addition, please note that one rangatahi tragically died in a car accident after returning to the community. This rangatahi is not included in reporting or evaluations relating to the Pilot.

Ten young people have commenced on the second MSA Programme.

the number of young people who have re-offended since their time in the programme, broken down by age range and type of offence

Information regarding the reoffending of rangatahi who participated in the Pilot programme is available on the Military-Style Academies webpage on the Oranga Tamariki website [here](#).

Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available. Please note that protecting the privacy of this small group of rangatahi is a priority, and as such any published information is anonymised.

the percentage of young people who left other youth justice residences in the past 12 months (not military-style academies), who have re-offended

Rangatahi may be in custody at a youth justice residence for a variety of reasons. Some have been sentenced to a supervision with residence order due to their offending, while others are on remand while waiting to appear in court as they are suspected of offending. In other instances, rangatahi who have reoffended following time in a residence may not return to Oranga Tamariki attention – for example, they may be managed through Alternative Action by Police. For these reasons, we are unable to provide data that precisely answers your request.

However, we can provide data on readmissions to residences that occurred during a set period. A readmission is defined as an individual who has more than one admission to a youth justice residence within the specified reporting period. Please note that some may have had multiple readmissions.

In the 2025/26 financial year to date, there were 351 rangatahi admitted to, and subsequently readmitted to, a youth justice residence. Admissions that occurred outside the reporting period are not included. Please note that this is operational data and subject to change.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

IN-CONFIDENCE

I trust you find this information useful. If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jarrod Williams', written in a cursive style.

Jarrod Williams
Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Youth Justice Services and Residential Care