

25 May 2020

Tiana Epati  
President  
New Zealand Law Society  
Via email to: [Bronwyn.Jones@lawsociety.org.nz](mailto:Bronwyn.Jones@lawsociety.org.nz) and [Amanda.Frank@lawsociety.org.nz](mailto:Amanda.Frank@lawsociety.org.nz)

Dear Tiana

In my letter of 12 May 2020, I undertook to provide you a link to our website which would provide detailed information about our operations under Alert Level 2.

While it is now possible for lawyers to visit their clients in person when requested, there are precautions and safety protocols in place. These are detailed in the visiting prisons under Alert Level 2 section of our website:

[https://www.corrections.govt.nz/working\\_with\\_offenders/prison\\_sentences/staying\\_connected\\_with\\_friends\\_and\\_family/visits/recache](https://www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/prison_sentences/staying_connected_with_friends_and_family/visits/recache)

Safety remains our top priority and where possible we would encourage lawyers to consider other options for engaging with their clients where practicable. The measures we put in place to support access during COVID-19 will continue. These include utilising the lawyer document email system to request video conferencing and phone calls with clients, and the use of Jabber to call into the VMR.

We have also advised our staff that communication with lawyers is to be given priority over other uses of the phone system.

As previously advised, we are committed to ensuring counsel have good access to defendants and if any of your members are experiencing issues they should contact [prisonercontact@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:prisonercontact@corrections.govt.nz).

I appreciate you keeping me informed of any concerns you might have - and thank you for your ongoing support and that of your members, in keeping our prisons safe.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Lightfoot  
Chief Executive

**Copies to:**

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