



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

WHITTLESEY ROAD

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PHILIP D. MURPHY

*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

*Lt. Governor*

MARCUS O. HICKS, ESQ.

*Acting Commissioner*

May 1, 2019

Frank W. Haines  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer  
Office of Legislative Services  
State House Annex, P.O. Box 068  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0068

Dear Mr. Haines:

Please find the Department of Corrections' response to questions raised by Senator Singleton of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee:

**Senator Singleton:**

**Question:** *The DOC retained a consultant in 2018 for an independent review of the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women. The review has since been concluded. Please provide details on how much the review cost.*

**Response:** As of April 30, 2019, the cost for the review totaled \$199,300.92. However, this amount may be subject to change.

**Question:** *According to a 2016 Release Outcome Report from the NJDOC, the State Parole Board, and the Juvenile Justice Commission, over half of those released from prison were re-involved with the justice system, and nearly a third were back in prison or jail within three years of release. Is there an updated Release Outcome Report? If not, when will there be one?*

**Response:** The most recent Release Outcome Report (ROR) on the NJDOC website is the 2018 report. The 2018 ROR analyzed inmates released in 2014, known as the 2014 release cohort. The follow-up period for the 2014 release cohort is January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2017. It should be noted that each ROR analyzes the recidivism rates of a specific and

unique release cohort grouped by release year. Each ROR represents analysis unique to inmates in the particular release year and RORs are independent of each other. NJDOC will post submit the 2019 ROR on its website this fall. The 2019 ROR will analyze recidivism for inmates released in 2015. This is referred to as the 2015 release cohort. The follow-up period for the 2015 release cohort is January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2018.

**Question:** What is the most recent compliance rate for the annual state inspections of county jails?

**Response:** The inspection cycle commenced on March 18, 2019. Three (3) unannounced week-long inspections have occurred. Staff are now in the process promulgating these comprehensive and voluminous reports for final review and distribution to the County Jails. An initial debriefing indicates: one (1) was in full compliance for all standards and two (2) were out of compliance for one (1) standard.

**Question:** *How are the standards for compliance developed? Is the failure to report inmate deaths a component of the inspection report?*

**Response:** In accordance with the requirements for the promulgation of Administrative Rules, the standards are created by the department. Yes, the failure to report inmate deaths is a component of the inspection report. The standard is 10A:31-13.31.

**Question:** *Have there been any unannounced annual inspections as outlined in the December 2018 press release by the department? If so, what was the compliance rate? Which facilities were in compliance and not in compliance?*

**Response:** See above.

**Question:** Are the standards NJ specific or based on some national model of compliance?

**Response:** The model includes elements of national performance based accreditation standards.

**Question:** *In 2017 the NJDOC announced in the New Jersey Register a new rule to keep more formal records of all jail deaths. Was this new reporting rule instituted? If so, what was the number of confirmed deaths reported in county jails in 2018?*

**Response:** The new rule was adopted in December 2017. As of January 1, 2018, the County Jails were required to report the deaths in custody. The total number of deaths reported in custody of the county jails was twenty-two (22) for CY 2018.

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Should you have the need for additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcus O. Hicks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a distinct "O" and "H".

Marcus O. Hicks, Esq.  
Acting Commissioner

GTA:am

c: Suzanne Lawrence, Acting Chief of Staff  
Bettie Norris, Deputy Commissioner  
Gary T. Alpert, Assistant Commissioner  
Melinda Haley, Director  
David Ridolfino, Office of Management and Budget  
Anuja Pande Joshi, Office of Legislative Services