



NEW ZEALAND PAROLE BOARD

UPDATED ADVISORY TO COUNSEL 24 MARCH 2020

The New Zealand Parole Board is taking proactive steps for the ongoing consideration of cases, in anticipation of an epidemic management notice being issued by the Government.

The Board is being guided by section 13A of the Parole Act 2002, which covers epidemics, and allows for cases to be considered on paper only by four experienced parole convenors.

“The most important point for prisoners is they will still have their cases considered – just not in person,” said the Board chairperson Sir Ron Young.

“A form will be provided to prisoners, allowing them to give some basic information to the Board in lieu of appearing in person. We recognise this isn’t a perfect solution, but is one way to retain retain prisoners’ input rights as much as possible,” he said.

As advised yesterday, counsel are able to provide their submissions in writing by emailing info@paroleboard.govt.nz

However, a significant number of offenders routinely appear before the Board without counsel and we must do all we can to ensure their legal representation at this time.

“I ask the New Zealand Law Society, Auckland District Law Society, Public Defence Service, and Legal Services Agency to urgently meet to find a way to ensure legal representation for all offenders due to have their case considered by the Board,” said Sir Ron.

The Board has asked the Department of Corrections to assist lawyers to have phone contact with offenders due for upcoming consideration by the Board.

Sir Ron Young
Chairperson, New Zealand Parole Board

ENDS

CONTACT: info@paroleboard.govt.nz