



NEW ZEALAND PAROLE BOARD

ADVISORY TO COUNSEL 21 APRIL 2020

The New Zealand Parole Board will reintroduce video-link (AVL) hearings from 4 May 2020, as part of its COVID-19 response plans.

The Board has recently been functioning under an epidemic management notice, and conducting hearings by teleconference.

These arrangements will continue until 4 May, when AVL hearings will resume.

“It is pleasing that the Board is able to return to a more normal style of hearing so soon, and I want to thank counsel for their cooperation during the past month” said NZPB chairperson Sir Ron Young.

“Counsel should continue to provide written submissions in advance of NZPB hearings, as that approach has proved very useful during this time of unusual operations,” he said.

AVL hearings are being made possible from select Community Corrections sites around the country, and the Board administration will advise attendees of the available locations.

All staff are aiming to make the process as contactless as possible. If you are unwell, it is vital you do not attend an AVL hearing yourself and stay home to recover.

Prison visits continue to be temporarily suspended, meaning counsel are unable to appear in person beside their client, however phone and email contact is possible. [Corrections has information available on this.](#)

“We look forward to enacting these arrangements from May 4, and continue to ask for the patience and goodwill of counsel during these challenging times,” said Sir Ron.

Sir Ron Young
Chairperson, New Zealand Parole Board

ENDS

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