



## NEW ZEALAND PAROLE BOARD

### ADVISORY TO COUNSEL 13 MAY 2020

#### **Arrangements under COVID-19 Alert Level 2**

The New Zealand Parole Board moved to AVL (audio-visual link) hearings from 4 May 2020, as part of its COVID-19 response plans. Under Alert Level 2, AVL hearings will continue to be held in this way for at least the first two weeks.

The situation will be reviewed regularly.

Under Alert Level 2, Corrections will be facilitating in-person legal visits, including attendance of counsel at Parole Board hearings, on request. [Corrections has information available on this.](#)

Counsel are also able to join AVL hearings from a Community Corrections site or connect remotely using a compatible device via Jabber.

AVL hearings are being made possible from select Community Corrections sites around the country, and Board administrators 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.

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

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

“We look forward to progressing hearings under Alert Level 2, 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

**CONTACT: [info@paroleboard.govt.nz](mailto:info@paroleboard.govt.nz)**