

Department of Corrections delays prisoner release when segregation order expired

Legislation	Ombudsmen Act 1975
Ombudsman	Anand Satyanand
Case number(s)	A8903
Date	2001

Delayed release from ‘precautionary segregation’—complaint upheld—implementation of computerised bring-up system to avoid recurrence of problem—no recommendation necessary

Following an exhibition of disruptive behaviour in a mainstream unit an inmate was sentenced to a short period of cell confinement and placed on ‘precautionary segregation’ for a period of 14 days. ‘Precautionary segregation’ allows a Superintendent to limit an inmate’s ability to associate with others. In this instance, an inmate complained that he had not been released back into the mainstream until three days after the segregation order had expired.

The investigation led to the view that the complaint was justified. As a result, the prison put in place a computerised bring-up system to alert relevant staff of the requirement to discharge an inmate from precautionary segregation when the order expires. In view of the action taken by the prison, no further action by an Ombudsman was necessary.

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