



March 2, 2026.

Members of the Public Safety Interim Budget Committee,

The Montana Department of Corrections respectfully submits the attached information in accordance with requirements included in HB 913 from the 2025 Montana Legislature. Section 2 requires the department to report on inappropriate and illicit communications within corrections and report on the effectiveness of its methods to reduce inappropriate communications.

DOC HB 913 Inmate Communications Report

July 2025 – January 2026

The chart below demonstrates information requested in HB 913 Section 2:

- a) the number of emails, messages, and other electronic communications to and from inmates at Montana State Prison;
b) the number of emails blocked by automatic scanning systems;
c) the result of the department of corrections' audit of both the blocked and unblocked communications to determine the rate of false negatives and false positives

Table with 7 columns: Total Communications, Flagged, Denied, Approved, False Positives, False Negatives. Rows for Number and Percent.

- d) a description of the process and cost of electronic monitoring of tablets and devices

Process: Mail Room (i.e., inmate communications) staff review all scanned mail, video messages, pictures, and flagged items (generally per the "flagged words" list) prior to them being delivered to inmates.

If a communication is flagged, but upon review is determined to be acceptable, it is processed as normal and delivered to the inmate. Items that are initially flagged, but later determined to be acceptable as part of an appeal process, are delivered to the inmate.



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flagged initially, but later found to be inappropriate, the communication is removed from the inmate's tablet.

**Costs:** Six members of the Mail Room staff review flagged communications as part of duties included in their standard job descriptions. Should a flagged communication trigger additional exploration, DOC investigators would be assigned to complete that work as part of duties included in their standard job descriptions.

e) *any incidents at the Montana State Prison that involve email communications that were inappropriately filtered by automatic scanning systems.*

Traditional email is not available to inmates as a means of communication. Instead, they used the messaging apps monitored through the process described above.