



Dear

On 8 June 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information pertaining to both the Social Housing Register (SHR) and the Transfer Register.

### **Social Housing Register**

As you will be aware, the Social Housing Register is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. Placing people and families into social housing accommodation is about matching them with the right property in the area they want to live. Those assessed as having a greater need for housing will be prioritised higher. As people's needs change their priority and place on the register may change also.

Further information about the Social Housing Register, which is reported on a quarterly basis and by territorial local authority or local board for Auckland, is available at:

<http://housing.msd.govt.nz/information-for-housing-providers/register/index.html>

### **The Transfer Register**

The Transfer Register represents applicants already in social housing who need to be rehoused for reasons such as there being too few or too many bedrooms in their current social house, or for health reasons.

The number of people on the Transfer Register is subject to change, as people come on and off the Register and as their circumstances change. There are 1,289 applications on the Transfer Register as at 31 March 2017, an increase of 24.4 percent compared to the same time last year (i.e. 31 March 2016).

Further information regarding the Transfer Register and quarterly statistics is available at:

[www.housing.msd.govt.nz/information-for-housing-providers/register/transfer-register.html](http://www.housing.msd.govt.nz/information-for-housing-providers/register/transfer-register.html)

For the sake of clarity I have addressed each of your questions in turn:

- *Of those people currently on the social housing register, how many are registered as having a physical disability, or have a member of their family with a physical disability?*
- *Of those on the transfer housing register, how many are registered as having a physical disability, or have a member of their family with a physical disability?*

Table 1 shows the number of applications on both the Social Housing Register and the Transfer register where one or more of the applicants included in the application had a physical disability, as at 31 March 2017.

- *Of those currently on the social housing register what is the average wait-time?*
- *What is the shortest wait time of those on the social housing register?*
- *What is the longest wait time of those currently on the social housing register?*

Table 2 shows the minimum, median and maximum time to house priority A and B applicants housed in the quarter ending 31 March 2017, as at 31 March 2017.

- *Of those registered as having a disability, what is the average, shortest and longest wait-time?*

Table 3 shows the minimum, median and maximum time to house priority A and B applicants in the quarter ending 31 March 2017, where the application included an applicant with a physical disability, as at 31 March 2017.

- *Of those on the social housing register in 2017, a breakdown of the regions they are seeking housing in?*

This information is publically available on the Ministry's website at: [www.housing.msd.govt.nz/documents/information-for-housing-providers/register/housing-register-june-2017.xlsx](http://www.housing.msd.govt.nz/documents/information-for-housing-providers/register/housing-register-june-2017.xlsx)

- *Of those currently on the transfer housing register what is the average wait-time?*
- *What is the shortest wait time of those on the transfer housing register?*
- *What is the longest wait time of those currently on the transfer housing register?*

Table 4 shows the minimum, median and maximum time to house priority A and B applicants from the Transfer Register in the quarter ending 31 March 2017, as at 31 March 2017.

- *Of those on the transfer housing register in 2017, a breakdown of the reasons they are needing to be transferred.*

Table 5 shows the number of applications on the Transfer Register by main reason for housing need as at 31 March 2017.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gallacher  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Housing**

**Table 1: The number of applications on both the Social Housing Register and the Transfer register, where the application included an applicant with a physical disability, as at 31 March 2017.**

Disability Type	Housing Register	Transfer Register	Total
Physical Disability	696	251	947

**Notes:**

- The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at the time of accepting an offer of social housing, the application priority may have changed prior to this date.
- This includes applications both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register.
- Physical disability is where one or more of the applicants included in the application has indicated they have a physical disability.

**Table 2: The minimum, median and maximum time to house priority A and B applications housed in the quarter ending 31 March 2017, as at 31 March 2017.**

Minimum number of days	Median number of days	Maximum number of days	Number of Applications
0	52	1,616	1,799

**Notes:**

- The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at the time of accepting an offer of social housing, the application priority may have changed prior to this date.
- The quarter in which the tenancy was activated is the quarter reported.
- Applications housed may have been housed with Housing New Zealand Corporation or with a Community Housing Provider.
- Applications may have been on the Social Housing Register or the Transfer Register.
- After September 2015 time to house is defined as the number of calendar days between the date an application is first confirmed live on the Social Housing Register as an 'A' or 'B' priority and the date a tenancy is activated for that application. The date a tenancy is activated may differ from the tenancy start date.
- The median average time to house is the midpoint of the time to house values.

**Table 3: The minimum, median and maximum time to house for priority A and B applications housed in the quarter ending 31 March 2017, where the application included an applicant with a physical disability, as at 31 March 2017.**

Disability type	Minimum number of days	Median number of days	Maximum number of days	Number of Applications
Physical Disability	0	84	1,202	176
No Physical Disability	0	49	1,616	1,623

**Notes**

- The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at the time of accepting an offer of social housing, the application priority may have changed prior to this date.
- The quarter in which the tenancy was activated is the quarter reported here.
- Applications housed may have been housed with Housing New Zealand Corporation or with a Community Housing Provider.
- Applications may have been on the Social Housing Register or the Transfer Register.
- After September 2015 time to house is defined as the number of calendar days between the date an application is first confirmed live on the Social Housing Register as an 'A' or 'B' priority and the date a tenancy is activated for that application. The date a tenancy is activated may differ from the tenancy start date.
- The median average time to house is the midpoint of the time to house values.

**Table 4: The minimum, median and maximum time to house for priority A and B applications housed from the Transfer Register in the quarter as at the end of 31 March 2017.**

Minimum number of days	Median number of days	Maximum number of days	Number of Applications
18	90	1,046	23

**Notes:**

- The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at the time of accepting an offer of social housing, the application priority may have changed prior to this date.
- The quarter in which the tenancy was activated is the quarter reported here.
- Applications housed may have been housed with Housing New Zealand Corporation or with a Community Housing Provider.
- Applications may have been on the Social Housing Register or the Transfer Register.
- After September 2015 time to house is defined as the number of calendar days between the date an application is first confirmed live on the Social Housing Register as an 'A' or 'B' priority and the date a tenancy is activated for that application. The date a tenancy is activated may differ from the tenancy start date.
- The median average time to house is the midpoint of the time to house values.
- This only includes applications on the Transfer Register .

**Table 5: The number of applications on the Transfer Register by main reason for housing need as at 31 March 2017.**

Primary reason for housing need	Count
Current accommodation is inadequate or unsuitable	377
Employment or family reasons	90
Financial stress	5
Homelessness	15
Medical or other special need	377
Neighbourhood or safety issues	372
Tenancy ending/ eviction	24
Unable to access alternative housing	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,289</b>

**Notes:**

- Primary reason for housing is at the application level.
- This only includes applications on the Transfer Register