



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

22 MAY 2017

Dear

On 5 April 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Statistics showing the current number of Social Housing requests in Kapiti, the current number of Emergency Housing requests in Kapiti and current levels of homelessness in the Kapiti area.*

Eligible applicants for Social Housing are included in the Social Housing Register, which tracks the number of eligible applicants for social housing properties or transfers between social housing properties at a given point in time. The number of people on the register and their priority rating is subject to change, as people come on and off the register and as their circumstances change. Please note that the Social Housing Register reports on the number of applications and may represent an individual or a household.

The Social Housing Register is published on a quarterly basis. Register numbers are reported by register type, priority (A and B), region (territorial authority, or local board for Auckland), and household demographics. Quarterly information can be found on the Ministry's Social Housing website at:

- www.housing.msd.govt.nz/information-for-housing-providers/register/index.html
- www.housing.msd.govt.nz/information-for-housing-providers/register/archive/archive.html

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (SNG), which was introduced on 1 July 2016, is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and will not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for their or their family's needs. Through the use of Emergency Housing SNGs, the Ministry has assisted thousands of vulnerable families and individuals in these types of situations.

It is too simplistic to assume that every person who is without secure accommodation considers themselves homeless and/or seeks help from the Ministry. The Ministry can report the number of applications on the Social Housing Register where the primary reason for the application was given as 'homelessness'. Please note, the primary reason for a social housing application is based on the application responses provided by the main applicant at the time they applied. This may not reflect the situation of all household members included in the application. While waiting to be placed in social housing they may also be placed in emergency or temporary accommodation, meaning their circumstances may have changed subsequently.

There are fewer than six eligible applications on the Social Housing Register in the Kapiti Coast District where the main reason for need is homelessness, as at 31 March 2017. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Please find below a table that shows the number of Emergency Housing SNG's granted by Kapiti and Otaki Work and Income sites for the quarter ending 31 March 2017.

The number of Emergency Housing SNG's granted by Kapiti and Otaki Work and Income sites for the quarter ending 31 March 2017.

Work and Income site	Grants
Kapiti	33
Otaki	10
Total	43

Notes:

- This is a count of grants. A client can have more than one grant in the time period.
- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- Site is based on the Work and Income site where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.

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 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 relating to Social Housing and Emergency Housing SNG's with us, please feel free to contact 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 or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Gallacher', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Gallacher
Deputy Chief Executive, Housing