



29 SEP 2017



Dear ,

On 24 August 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Is [the figure provided estimating the number of families and individuals on the Housing Register in Northland] 150 families or individuals? If it's families, around how many individuals would that be?*
- *Is there a breakdown of how many in different areas of Northland?*
- *How much is MSD expected to spend on them or how much has the Ministry set aside for emergency housing in Northland this year?*

The figure of around 150 with which you were provided represents the number of applications on the Housing Register in the Northland Region as at the end of the June 2017 quarter, and includes both individuals and families.

As at the end of June 2017, there were 157 applications for social housing on the Housing Register in Northland, with 373 individuals associated with these applications (which include 145 individuals in the Far North District, 13 in the Kaipara District and 215 in the Whangarei District).

Households on the Housing Register with the highest needs are placed in social housing if they can be matched to suitable accommodation. Others may leave the Register because they make their own arrangements or their circumstances change. As such, the numbers provided above are subject to change as people move on and off of the Register.

The Housing Register shows people who are not currently in social housing but who have been assessed as eligible for social housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in social housing but who have applied to be rehoused. The numbers of applications on both registers are published on a quarterly basis, and the combined register is referred to as the Social Housing Register.

Households on the Social Housing Register are in a range of circumstances, including:

- Living in social housing but awaiting a transfer (for instance to a different region or to a different sized property due to a change in circumstances);
- Staying with friends or family;
- Renting;
- Or, as outlined below, in transitional housing provided by the Ministry or in receipt of an Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant.

The Ministry provides 129 transitional housing places in Northland, and the current spend on these places is \$1,279,582 per annum. Each place is for one household, which may be an individual or a family. These placements provide short term accommodation for up to 12 weeks to families and individuals while a long term solution to their housing needs can be found.

Where transitional housing is not available or appropriate for those in immediate need, the Ministry may grant an Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant to assist with the cost of temporary emergency accommodation. Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant payments are made when, and where necessary. Regional forecasts are not carried out, as the Ministry's expenditure will depend on demand which varies significantly over time and region. Therefore, this information cannot be provided under section 18(g) of the Act as it is not held by the Ministry.

You may also be interested in the Associate Minister for Social Housing, Hon Alfred Ngaro's response to a parliamentary question regarding expenditure on emergency housing available on Parliament's website here: [www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/QWA\\_06729\\_2017/6729-2017-jan-logie-to-the-associate-minister-for-social](http://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/QWA_06729_2017/6729-2017-jan-logie-to-the-associate-minister-for-social).

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

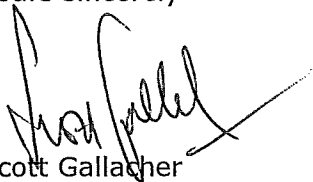
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 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**