



17 SEP 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 12 June 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

*Under the OIA, please provide for the past five financial years:*

- 1. The number of homeless people housed across all regions/territorial authorities, inc Auckland, and the type of housing; ie emergency, state house or other**
2. The number of tenancies ended overall and the number ended for meth
3. The number of people evicted, or suspended, overall and the number where meth was a factor
4. The number of HNZ tenants referred to the Tenancy Tribunal overall and for meth
5. Costs related to meth contamination, details of how many tenants were billed contamination, the amount tenants were billed, how much was repaid and how much is outstanding
6. The number of properties tested for meth
7. The overall cost of testing
- 8. Any details of refunds to any tenants or other parties**

As you are aware, questions two to seven are being responded to by Housing New Zealand and questions one and eight (in bold) are being answered by the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry).

The Ministry offers a range of assistance to support people with their housing needs. This includes, but is not limited to, assistance to sustain private housing, access to subsidised public housing, transitional housing and Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants.

Public houses are properties owned or leased by Housing New Zealand and registered community housing providers that can be tenanted by people who are eligible for public housing.

Transitional housing provides warm, dry and safe short-term accommodation for people in need. It is managed by contracted providers, who are skilled in supporting tenants with a range of tailored social support, tenancy-related services, and are also responsible for maintaining the properties.

Where transitional housing places are fully subscribed, or not appropriate for the person's circumstances, the Ministry can help to meet the cost of short-term commercial accommodation, such as a motel, through payment of the Emergency

Page 1 of 6

Housing Special Needs Grant. This assistance is available as a last resort where no other options are available.

Information about these and other assistance, including a breakdown by region, can be found in the Ministry's Housing Quarterly Reports, accessible through the Ministry's website here: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-quarterly-report.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-quarterly-report.html), and through the Ministry's Housing Regional Fact Sheets here: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/quarterly-factsheets/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/quarterly-factsheets/index.html)

Your two questions are addressed in turn below.

- *The number of homeless people housed across all regions/territorial authorities, inc Auckland, and the type of housing; ie emergency, state house or other*

For the purposes of responding to this question, the Ministry has interpreted 'homelessness' as living in insecure housing. Insecure housing is defined as accommodation such as car/caravan/mobile home, emergency housing, temporarily sharing with other people, homeless, or temporary facility (eg hospital). The housing type recorded for a public housing application is based on the responses provided by the main applicant. This may not reflect the situation of all household members included in the application.

It's important to note that it would be too simplistic to assume that every person who is without secure accommodation considers themselves homeless and/or seeks help from the Ministry.

Please find enclosed Table One which shows the number of households housed in public housing during the years ending 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2018, broken down by accommodation type immediately before being housed.

Table Two shows the number of households housed in public housing during the years ending 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2018 who came from insecure housing, broken down by Territorial Local Authority.

Please note tables one and two have not been combined as this would have resulted in a large portion of the data being suppressed beyond the point of usefulness due to suppression requirements.

In April 2014, the Ministry took over responsibility for managing public housing applications and the Social Housing Register from Housing New Zealand. However, it was not until August 2015 that the Ministry subsequently transitioned from using Housing New Zealand's IT system to that of its own. As such, the Ministry is unable to provide you with earlier information.

- *Any details of refunds to any tenants or other parties*

The information you have requested is not held by the Ministry. The Ministry has enquired with Housing New Zealand who advise they also do not hold this information. As such, there are no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

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 and attachments 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 One: Total number of households housed in public housing during the years ending 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2018, by accommodation type immediately before being housed**

Whether the applicant was in insecure housing	Accommodation type immediately before being housed	Year ending		
		30 June 2016	30 June 2017	30 June 2018
<b>Secure</b>	Other	1,632	174	13
	Boarding	1,194	1,448	978
	Own home	5	8	6
	Private rental	707	1,228	952
	Social housing	385	608	511
<b>Insecure</b>	Car	138	186	173
	Mobile Home - Caravan	62	97	100
	Emergency Housing Provider (Contracted)	0	175	1121
	Emergency housing	431	828	S
	Emergency Housing Provider (Non-Contracted)	0	137	662
	Garage	0	50	161
	Homeless - Other	171	209	0
	Hospital	0	23	31
	Institution - Prison or Hospital	96	53	0
	Marae	0	S	9
	Motel/Hotel/Campground	0	281	453
	Prison	0	S	S
	Homeless - In a public place	32	53	0
	Refugee centre	105	171	125
	Respite Care	0	S	25
	Rehabilitation Centre	0	20	106
	Homeless or night shelter	10	95	149
	Sleeping rough	0	17	84
	Tent	42	43	35
	Temporary sharing - Staying with friends / family	414	973	797
Women's Refuge	0	66	147	
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,424</b>	<b>6,953</b>	<b>6,645</b>

**Notes:**

- This data includes priority A and B applicants only
- 'S' represents suppressed cells to protect privacy where numbers are low. Secondary suppression has also been applied. This is in line with section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act.
- The accommodation type is where the main applicant was living immediately prior to being housed. This may not reflect the situation of all household members included in the application.

**Table Two: Number of households housed in public housing during the years ending 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2018 who came from insecure housing, by Territorial Local Authority (TLA)**

TLA	Year ending		
	30-Jun-16	30-Jun-17	30-Jun-18
Ashburton District	6	7	16
Auckland Super City	552	1,250	1,488
Buller District	S	S	12
Carterton District	0	0	S
Central Hawke'S Bay District	0	S	S
Central Otago District	0	S	0
Christchurch City	240	483	738
Clutha District	0	S	S
Dunedin City	20	96	97
Far North District	18	33	36
Gisborne District	41	91	80
Gore District	0	S	S
Grey District	S	11	16
Hamilton City	69	170	228
Hastings District	35	84	69
Hauraki District	0	8	7
Horowhenua District	S	11	10
Invercargill City	7	19	29
Kaikoura District	S	S	S
Kaipara District	S	S	9
Kapiti Coast District	S	7	10
Kawerau District	0	S	0
Lower Hutt City	102	207	165
Manawatu District	S	8	9
Marlborough District	S	29	30
Masterton District	S	S	14
Matamata-Piako District	S	14	12
Napier City	45	124	124
Nelson City	19	27	51
New Plymouth District	27	49	69
Opotiki District	S	11	S
Otorohanga District	0	S	S
Palmerston North City	52	109	130
Porirua City	53	133	139
Queenstown-Lakes District	0	S	S
Rangitikei District	0	S	S
Rotorua District	15	24	35
Ruapehu District	0	S	S
Selwyn District	0	0	S
South Taranaki District	0	7	9
South Waikato District	0	S	S

**Table Two continued: Number of households housed in public housing during the during the years ending 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2018 who came from insecure housing, by Territorial Local Authority (TLA)**

South Wairarapa District	0	S	S
Stratford District	S	S	S
Tasman District	S	6	9
Taupo District	0	8	12
Tauranga City	14	50	56
Thames-Coromandel District	S	12	17
Timaru District	11	29	36
Upper Hutt City	12	21	26
Waikato District	S	25	29
Waimakariri District	9	6	18
Waimate District	0	S	S
Waipa District	S	6	13
Wairoa District	S	6	8
Waitaki District	S	6	12
Waitomo District	S	S	S
Wellington City	50	117	123
Western Bay Of Plenty District	S	S	S
Westland District	0	S	S
Whakatane District	8	24	27
Whanganui District	9	30	37
Whangarei District	36	82	85
Unknown/Other	8	S	S
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>3,487</b>	<b>4,185</b>

**Notes:**

- This data includes priority A and B applicants only
- 'S' represents suppressed cells to protect privacy where numbers are low. Secondary suppression has also been applied. This is in line with section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act.