



01 NOV 2019



Dear 

Thank you for your request, under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information:

- 1. The five longest instances where a person/household has waited in the last two years for state housing.*
- 2. The five longest instances right now where a person/household is waiting for state housing.*

Your request was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on 5 September 2019.

The Housing Register is not a time-ranked waitlist. The Housing Register is dynamic and always changing as people come on and off it. Each person on the Housing Register is given a priority rating based on their individual circumstances and urgency of their housing need. An applicant's priority rating may increase or decrease if their circumstances change.

Some people on the Housing Register have exceptional circumstances, which makes accessing suitable and affordable accommodation more difficult and may result in them remaining on the Housing Register for an extended period of time. This includes people with mental health issues, and chronic health conditions which means they have special requirements for housing. People may also have limited letting areas as they need to access school and health services or they are constrained by parole conditions. The Ministry works closely with these people to ensure that any potential housing arrangements are well suited to their needs and provide a long-term housing solution.

To address shortages of affordable housing, HUD will provide an extra 6,400 public housing places by June 2022. This year's Budget provided \$283 million to fund and maintain over 2,800 Transitional Housing places throughout New Zealand, along with another \$197 million to expand and strengthen Housing First to high demand areas. You can read the Public Housing Plan at the following link: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Community-and-Public-Housing/Increasing-Public-Housing/Public-Housing-Plan/dd7ef6758d/Public-Housing-Plan-2018-2022.pdf.

Recently the Government announced that nationally, more than 2,000 families have a place to call home thanks to an additional 2,178 public houses provided by HUD. Of the 2,178 places we secured towards the 6,400 target. HUD is working with Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities (formally named the Housing New Zealand

Corporation) and registered Community Housing Providers (CHPs) to bring on as many additional public housing places as possible within available funding. Public housing supports a range of Government housing initiatives like the successful Housing First programme for chronically homeless people, and transitional housing to support people in urgent need of housing.

It may interest you to know HUD's August 2019 Dashboard shows that the Median time to house an application on the Register is 126 days, and that 709 households were housed over August 2019. This information is available at: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Community-and-Public-Housing/Follow-our-progress/Monthly-Dashboards/922901cee2/August-2019-Dashboard.pdf.

The following website explains the Ministry of Social Development's role in the provision of housing support, including emergency housing and housing support products which may be available to people on the Housing Register: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/index.html.

Please find enclosed two tables:

- Table One shows the highest number of days an individual was on the Housing Register, of those housed during the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019.
- Table Two which shows the five highest number of days applicants have been on the Housing Register as at 30 June 2019.

Please note the priority rating at the time the applicants were housed may not reflect their housing need for the majority of time on the Housing Register. A number of the clients were low-priority B applicants for significant periods of time and later experienced a change in their circumstances which resulted in them being re-assessed with a higher priority rating that resulted in them being matched.

The majority of the clients were in secure private rentals at the time they applied for public housing and during their wait on the Housing Register. As the Ministry ensures that people in the greatest need are given priority, there would have been other applicants on the Housing Register whose need was assessed to be more urgent.

Note that all the clients in Table Two were assessed as either priority C and D at the time they originally applied. Their application was migrated to the Ministry when the Ministry took over the Housing Register (April 2019) from Kāinga Ora- Homes and Communities. Generally, C and D priority applicants were removed from the Housing Register by Housing New Zealand in 2012 when the criteria changed to limit eligibility to priority A and B applicants only. There was a cohort of these C and D priority applicants which were grand-parented. These people had a moderate need but were permitted to remain on the Housing Register and were eventually housed.

People present with complex needs and a higher portion of people are already receiving support from Work and Income.

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,

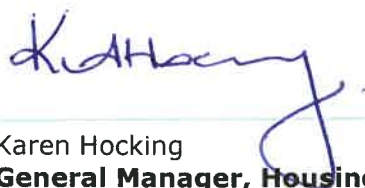
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding length of time on the Housing Register, 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



Karen Hocking
General Manager, Housing, Service Delivery

Table One: The longest number of days the top five applicants were on the Housing Register, of those housed during the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019, broken down by number of days to house and priority rating of the applicant.

Priority Rating	Days to House
A	3,103
A	2,658
A	2,482
A	2,143
A	2,065

Table Two: The top five applicants, by number of days on the Housing Register, as at 30 June 2019 broken down by number of days and priority rating of the applicant.

Priority Rating	Days on Register
B	6,717
A	6,057
A	5,716
B	5,578
A	3,762

Notes on tables One and Two:

- Information in this report reflects Housing Register clients only. Clients on the Transfer Register are not included.
- The client's priority and register in Table One is at the time the client was housed.
- The client's priority rating in Table Two is at the 30 June 2019 and may differ from their current priority rating.