



03 DEC 2020

Dear

On 23 October 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Data on the social housing register broken down by ethnicity at the Territorial Authority (TA) level*
- *Trends around the number of families needing emergency housing at the TA level*

On 3 November 2020, the Ministry contacted you to clarify your request, to which you responded with the following:

- *I would like the social housing data from Manawatū District compared to national data for 2015 to 2020?*
- *I would like quarterly data on the number of families needing emergency housing from 2015 to 2020, also with comparing data from Manawatū District*

On 4 November 2020, the Ministry contacted you again, to reclarify your request, and you confirmed that you would be happy to receive the following information:

- *Manawatū Territorial Local Authority (TLA) vs. National number of people on the social housing register, broken down by ethnicity for 2015 – current, quarterly.*
- *Manawatū TLA vs. National number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) for 2017 - current, quarterly.*
- *Manawatū TLA vs. National number of families four or more that were granted EH SNG for April – current.*

When a person makes an application for public housing, their eligibility is assessed on their ability to access suitable, adequate, affordable and sustainable housing. Further details about the criteria for public housing assessments, is available on the Ministry's website at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/introduction.html.

Please see **Table One** in **Appendix A** attached, which shows the number of clients on the public housing register in Manawatū TLA, for quarters ending September 2015 to June 2020, broken down by ethnicity.

Please see **Table Two** in **Appendix A** attached, which shows the number of clients on the public housing register nationally, for quarters ending September 2015 to June 2020, broken down by ethnicity.

The Ministry understands that demand for housing across New Zealand is growing, and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing, driving house price and rent growth. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs, and many seek financial help from the Ministry.

Across the government, there is a wider programme of work underway aimed at increasing the supply of public housing and improving housing affordability and supply. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) leads the programme of work on New Zealand's housing and urban development.

This includes planning, and with Kāinga Ora, delivering more public housing, transitional housing, and services to tackle homelessness. HUD is also working to improve housing affordability and supply for aspiring homeowners. The Government Housing Programme Dashboard tracks progress on key parts of the Government's housing programme.

The Ministry's role is to assess eligibility for public housing, provide financial support to eligible people to access and sustain suitable housing, and to provide immediate assistance to meet emergency housing needs.

The EH SNG is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place or residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's needs. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended, dependent on individual circumstances.

The Ministry recognises that motels are not a long-term solution. They provide a shorter-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed.

Some people may struggle to access suitable housing due to a lack of available supply or they simply may not be able to meet the high cost of housing which may result in them receiving EH SNG support for an extended period of time.

The year 2020 has seen a significant increase in demand for emergency housing, as the Ministry supported people through the COVID-19 pandemic period with accommodation where they could safely self-isolate. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, people also could not easily move out of emergency housing into long-term accommodation which contributed to longer durations of stay and higher costs.

Please see **Table Three** in **Appendix A** attached, which shows the number and amount of EH SNGs that were granted in Manawatū TLA, for quarters ending September 2017 to June 2020.

Please see **Table Four** in **Appendix A** attached, which shows the number and amount of EH SNGs that were granted nationally, for quarters ending September 2017 to June 2020.

Please see **Table Five** in **Appendix A** attached, which shows the number and amount of EH SNGs that were granted in Manawatū TLA, for quarters ending September 2017 to June 2020, broken down by household composition.

Please see **Table Six** in **Appendix A** attached, which shows the number of clients on the public housing register nationally, for quarters ending June 2020, broken down by household composition.

Please note, the Ministry only started capturing information about household composition of EH SNG applicants from 01 April 2020, therefore the Ministry does not have records of household composition in EH SNGs grants prior to this date.

In order to protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. 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 the information.

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
- 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. 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 data on public housing and emergency housing in the Manawatū district, 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

Appendix A

Table One: The number of clients on the public housing register in Manawatū TLA, for quarters ending September 2015 to June 2020, broken down by ethnicity.

Quarter end	Māori	Pacific Peoples	NZ European	Other	Unspecified	Total
September 2015	S	0	S	0	0	9
December 2015	S	0	S	0	0	5
March 2016	S	0	S	0	0	9
June 2016	S	0	7	S	0	13
September 2016	11	0	S	S	0	21
December 2016	13	S	S	S	0	27
March 2017	15	S	S	S	0	32
June 2017	S	0	16	S	0	33
September 2017	20	S	S	S	0	32
December 2017	19	0	S	S	S	27
March 2018	20	0	17	0	0	37
June 2018	23	S	S	S	0	45
September 2018	24	0	S	0	S	41
December 2018	23	0	S	S	S	47
March 2019	30	0	S	S	S	64
June 2019	31	0	S	S	S	65
September 2019	32	S	24	S	S	64
December 2019	32	0	28	S	S	68
March 2020	32	S	28	S	S	71
June 2020	36	S	32	S	S	81

Notes:

- This includes applications both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register - waiting list.
- TLA is Territorial Local Authority.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the main applicant's residential address as at the end of each period.
- Ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a TLA through suburb and city details have an unknown TLA and are not included in this data.
- This only includes priority A and B applications.
- The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at the end of the quarter and may have changed prior to this date.
- This data includes applications that are priority A and B and are exiting either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register.
- Please note the ethnicity classification that is used to construct this table does not necessarily align with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity.
- Ethnicity details recorded by the Ministry have been gathered under a variety of classification methods as clients come into contact with the Ministry.
- The ethnicity data may be self-identified based on an individual's preference or self-construct.
- While the Ministry collects multiple ethnicities from clients, we only report a unique form of 'identified' ethnicity for core benefit data (one ethnic group per person with Māori coming first, Pacific groups second followed by other groups ending with NZ European).

Table Two: The number of clients on the public housing register nationally, for quarters ending September 2015 to June 2020, broken down by ethnicity.

Quarter end	Māori	Pacific Peoples	NZ European	Other	Unspecified	Total
September 2015	1,789	732	1,125	778	43	4,467
December 2015	1,899	772	1,100	809	39	4,619
March 2016	1,950	718	1,092	785	40	4,585
June 2016	2,108	733	1,227	891	53	5,012
September 2016	2,483	805	1,408	1,004	70	5,770
December 2016	2,690	831	1,507	1,022	60	6,110
March 2017	2,702	816	1,525	1,035	76	6,154
June 2017	2,926	927	1,681	1,125	114	6,773
September 2017	3,207	1,057	1,719	1,219	125	7,327
December 2017	3,389	1,168	1,826	1,184	158	7,725
March 2018	4,261	1,505	2,298	1,419	212	9,695
June 2018	4,689	1,652	2,492	1,507	249	10,589
September 2018	5,234	1,772	2,757	1,601	248	11,612
December 2018	5,944	1,976	3,043	1,821	302	13,086
March 2019	6,091	2,005	3,200	1,871	307	13,474
June 2019	6,746	2,257	3,469	2,048	371	14,891
September 2019	7,829	2,513	3,822	2,230	473	16,867
December 2019	8,529	2,600	3,951	2,380	535	17,995
March 2020	9,319	2,885	4,187	2,600	630	19,621
June 2020	10,646	3,021	4,816	2,735	661	21,879

Notes:

- This includes applications both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register - waiting list.
- The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at the end of the quarter and may have changed prior to this date.
- This data includes applications that are priority A and B and are exiting either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register.
- Please note the ethnicity classification that is used to construct this table does not necessarily align with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity.
- Ethnicity details recorded by the Ministry have been gathered under a variety of classification methods as clients come into contact with the Ministry.
- The ethnicity data may be self-identified based on an individual's preference or self-construct.
- While the Ministry collects multiple ethnicities from clients, we only report a unique form of 'identified' ethnicity for core benefit data (one ethnic group per person with Māori coming first, Pacific groups second followed by other groups ending with NZ European).

Table Three: The number and amount of EH SNGs that were granted in Manawatū TLA, for quarters ending September 2017 to June 2020.

Quarter ending	Grants	Amount
September 2017	30	\$17,128.00
December 2017	10	\$6,298.40
March 2018	6	\$3,940.00
June 2018	18	\$13,495.00
September 2018	31	\$27,920.00
December 2018	18	\$18,048.00
March 2019	39	\$36,921.22
June 2019	55	\$43,187.00
September 2019	58	\$48,478.00
December 2019	64	\$56,376.00
March 2020	75	\$50,421.00
June 2020	105	\$100,543.00

Notes:

- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- TLA is Territorial Local Authority.
- TLA is estimated based on the clients address at the time of the grant. It may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing provider.
- Ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a TLA through suburb and city details have an unknown TLA.
- The amount granted may not be the amount spent.
- Please note that this is a count of grants, not unique clients.
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified.
- Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated.
- Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by 'S'.

Table Four: The number and amount of EH SNGs that were granted nationally, for quarters ending September 2017 to June 2020.

Quarter ending	Grants	Amount
September 2017	9,159	\$8,964,440.20
December 2017	6,172	\$6,566,960.04
March 2018	6,138	\$6,574,732.82
June 2018	9,245	\$10,414,939.16
September 2018	14,017	\$15,931,191.77
December 2018	15,676	\$19,494,969.04
March 2019	17,264	\$23,079,535.77
June 2019	23,574	\$34,338,613.41
September 2019	29,266	\$41,589,048.70
December 2019	30,941	\$48,125,061.98
March 2020	32,141	\$54,069,679.57
June 2020	38,883	\$79,286,768.92

Notes:

- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- The amount granted may not be the amount spent.
- Please note that this is a count of grants, not unique clients.

Table Five: Number and amount of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in Manawatu TLA for quarters ending June 2020 by quarter ending and by household composition.

Quarter ending	Four or more people		Less than four people		Total	
	Grants	Amount	Grants	Amount	Grants	Amount
June 2020	S	\$7,685.00	S	\$92,858.00	105	\$100,543.00

Notes:

- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- TLA is Territorial Local Authority.
- TLA is estimated based on the clients address at the time of the grant. It may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing provider.
- Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.
- Ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a TLA through suburb and city details have an unknown TLA.
- The amount granted may not be the amount spent.
- Please note that this is a count of grants, not unique clients.
- Household composition of EH SNG applicants was not captured prior to 1 April 2020.
- Household composition is based on the declared adults and children staying in emergency housing and may not be reflective of their actual family size.
- This only includes priority A & B applications.

Table Six: Number and amount of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants nationally for quarters ending June 2020 by quarter ending and by household composition.

Quarter ending	Four or more people		Less than four people		Total	
	Grants	Amount	Grants	Amount	Grants	Amount
June 2020	5,662	\$17,870,900.37	33,221	\$61,415,868.55	38,883	\$79,286,768.92

Notes:

- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- The amount granted may not be the amount spent.
- Please note that this is a count of grants, not unique clients.
- Household composition of EH SNG applicants was not captured prior to 1 April 2020.
- Household composition is based on the declared adults and children staying in emergency housing and may not be reflective of their actual family size.
- This only includes priority A & B applications.