



17 FEB 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 20 January 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *What regions are the people with medical letters located in?*
- *How old are the people being referred to in the medical letters?*
- *How many people with medical letters on their file have been waiting more than 6 months / more than 12 months / more than 24 months?*

On 30 January 2020, you clarified your request to Housing Register applications with 'Health condition or other special need' as the listed primary and/or secondary reason for housing.

As of 31 December 2019, the number of current applications on the Housing Register with 'Health condition or other special need' as the primary reason for housing was 1,028.

I am unable to provide you with the amount of current applications on the Housing Register with 'Health condition or other special need' as the secondary reason for housing, as it is held in individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such I refuse under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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

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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 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Hocking', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Hocking
General Manager Housing