



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

20 NOV 2020

On 22 October 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *A breakdown of living arrangements of people on the Public Housing Register in Wairoa and nearby regions (Mahia/Nuhaka/Mahanga) into the categories of*
 - *How many are living in private rentals*
 - *How many in insecure housing*
 - *Non-contracted housing provider*
 - *How many have boarded through papakainga*
 - *Emergency housing provider*

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 up house prices and rents. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs and many seek financial help through the Ministry.

When New Zealanders are in need of public housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (the Register). The Housing Register shows people who are not currently in public housing but who have been assessed as eligible for public housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in a public housing property but who have applied to be transferred to a more suitable housing property to meet their needs. More information about the Public Housing Register is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/index.html.

When assessing clients' housing needs, the Ministry notes the nature of the accommodation the client is residing in when they apply to be on the Public Housing Register. The two housing types are classified as 'secure' or 'insecure' housing. For example, a client may be in secure housing if they reside in a private rental when they apply for Public Housing, however, if they are in a motel when they apply, they may be in insecure housing.

Further information regarding the assessment of a client's housing need can be found on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html.

Clients who approach the Ministry seeking public housing may also be offered other assistance appropriate to their situation to meet their housing need. This can include Accommodation Supplement for private rent, Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNG), or a Recoverable Assistance Payment Grant. Further information regarding available support can be accessed here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses/housing.html.

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The EH SNG is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of 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 Emergency Housing (EH) is not a long-term solution or the solution that we want to deliver for people who are potentially in a vulnerable situation. EH provides a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed.

In regard to your request, please find the following table showing a breakdown of living arrangements on the Register for the Wairoa District Territorial Authority Local (TLA):

Table One: The number of applications on the Public Housing Register in the Wairoa District Territorial Local Authority (TLA) as at 30 June 2020, broken down by insecure housing and the Housing Register

Insecure housing	Current housing circumstances	Housing Register	Transfer Register
No	Boarding	S	0
	Private rental	11	0
	Social housing	S	S
	Total secure housing	21	S
Yes	Mobile Home - Caravan	S	0
	Emergency Housing Provider (Contracted)	S	0
	Emergency Housing Provider (Non-Contracted)	15	0
	Hospital	S	0
	Motel/Hotel/Campground	S	0
	Homeless or night shelter	S	0
	Temp sharing - Staying with friends / family	S	0
	Total insecure housing	30	0
Total		51	S

Notes:

- 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.
- This only includes applicants on the Housing Register and applicants on the Transfer Register.
- This only includes priority A and B applications. The priority A and B applications used in these tables are as at the end of the quarter and may have changed prior to this date.
- Due to privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated.

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 numbers 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.

Please note, the Wairoa District Territorial Local Authority (TLA) data includes the suburbs of Mahia, Nuhaka and Mahanga. The Ministry only reports to the nearest TLA, as that is the most accurate and specific breakdown that the Ministry can provide. To provide a smaller breakdown of the data within the Wairoa District TLA would result in the loss of meaningful information, as the numbers would likely be suppressed under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect client privacy.

In regard to Papakāinga, if Ministry clients are boarding through Papakāinga Housing, that information will be captured in **Table One** under the boarding accommodation type category. The Ministry is not responsible for Papakāinga Housing as a type of housing supply. If you would like to know more about Papakāinga, you can contact Te Puni Kōkiri or the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, who may hold more information, as the responsible agencies.

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. 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 to your request regarding applicants on the Public Housing Register in the Wairoa region, 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.

Ngā mihi nui



 Karen Hocking
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Housing**