



21 SEP 2020

Tēnā koe

On 24 August 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. How many people who identify as Te Arawa are currently in social housing; and how many are currently waiting for social housing (on the social housing register)? Please include all adults and children, not just the number of applications.*
- 2. How many people who identify as Te Arawa have been declined from registering on the social housing register? Please include all adults and children and not just the number of applications.*
- 3. How many people who identify as Te Arawa are currently in social housing located in Rotorua?*
- 4. How many people who identify as Te Arawa are waiting for social housing in Rotorua?*
- 5. How many state houses are located in Rotorua, and how many of these are vacant and why?*
- 6. How much revenue from rent did the government make from social housing in Rotorua in the 2017-2018 and 2019-2019 financial years?*
- 7. How many Māori people are currently in social housing throughout NZ; and how many Māori are waiting for social housing?*
- 8. How many people overall are currently in social housing throughout NZ, and how many are waiting for social housing?*

On 7 September 2020, Questions Five to Eight of your request were transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for a response. This letter will address Questions One to Four.

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, which is 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 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 public housing but who have applied to be rehoused. While the Ministry completes the housing assessments which

inform the Public Housing Register, responsibility for funding and supply sits with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Kāinga Ora, respectively. More information about the Housing Register is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/index.html.

Each housing application is given a priority rating based on the Ministry's assessment of housing need, and all applications are measured against the same criteria to determine that priority rating. Applicants who are assessed as at risk (Priority A) or as having a serious housing need (Priority B) are placed on the Register until a house becomes available. The Ministry's role is to assess people's needs for public housing and if they or a family member need an accessible home, this is captured as part of the assessment process. Clients who are on the Register will be contacted on a regular basis to confirm their circumstances and are referred to Public Housing providers when suitable properties become available.

Further information regarding the assessment of a client's housing need, housing need priority ratings and the calculation of overall priority ratings 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.

The Public Housing Register is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. Placing people and families into houses is about matching them with the right house in the area they want to live. This includes ensuring the family has the right number of bedrooms, is close to essential services such as schools, and that the accommodation meets any disability needs if appropriate. Those assessed as having the greater need for housing will be prioritised higher. As people's needs change, their priority on the Register may also change. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

Clients who approach the Ministry seeking public housing are offered other assistance appropriate to their situation. 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 on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses/housing.html.

Enclosed in Appendix A are the following tables which provide a response to Questions One, Three, and Four of your request.

- **Table One:** The number of adults included, and applications made on the Public Housing Register in Rotorua and nationally, who have recorded iwi affiliations with Te Arawa as at the end of June 2020
- **Table Two:** The number of adults and tenancies in Public Housing in Rotorua and nationally who have recorded iwi affiliations with Te Arawa as at the end of June 2020

Please note that the Ministry only records iwi affiliation for the number of adults included in each application. Therefore, your request for the number of children with Te Arawa affiliation is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as this information is not held by the Ministry.

In relation to Question Two, the Ministry is unable to provide information on the number of people who have identified as Te Arawa who were declined access to the Housing Register. Information for unsuccessful applications is not centrally recorded, but is held in individual client files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of client files. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Act as it would require substantial manual collation to collate this information. 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:

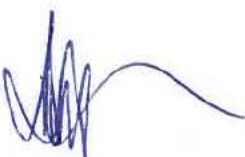
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents 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, 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
General Manager, Housing

Appendix A

Table One: The number of adults included, and applications made on the Public Housing Register in Rotorua and nationally, who have recorded iwi affiliations with Te Arawa as at the end of June 2020

Count of	Rotorua District	Other TLA	National Count
Count of Adults	204	530	734
Count of Applications	196	508	704

Table Two: The number of adults and tenancies in Public Housing in Rotorua and nationally who have recorded iwi affiliations with Te Arawa as at the end of June 2020

Count of	Rotorua District	Other TLA	National Count
Count of Adults	298	1,429	1,727
Count of Tenancies	250	1,310	1,560

Notes:

- TLA is Territorial Local Authority.
- Te Arawa includes the following: Ngati Pikiao (Te Arawa), Ngati Rangiteaorere (Te Arawa), Ngati Rangitahi (Te Arawa), Ngati Rangiwewehi (Te Arawa), Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa (Te Arawa), Ngati Whakaue (Te Arawa), Tapuika (Te Arawa), Tarawhai (Te Arawa), Te Arawa, Te Arawa/Taupo (Rotorua/Taupo) Region, Tuhourangi.
- Iwi affiliation is self-reported. Some Māori clients will not have any iwi affiliations recorded. Clients can be affiliated with more than one iwi.
- Iwi affiliations are based on the adults in the household so may not be reflective of all people in the household.
- The Public Housing Register is comprised of the Housing Register and the Transfer Register.
- Table One only includes priority A and B applications. The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at 30 June 2020.
- In Table One TLA is based on their current address and may not be where they want to live.
- In Table Two TLA is based on the location of the tenancy.