



12 FEB 2021

On 11 January 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information for Ōtaki and Ōtaki Beach:

- *the current number of Kāinga Ora houses in Ōtaki by size of property*
- *the average length of Kāinga Ora tenancies in Ōtaki*
- *an ethnic breakdown of Kāinga Ora tenancies in Ōtaki*
- *a Family breakdown of Kāinga Ora tenancies in Ōtaki (single, single parent families, couples, etc)*
- *an age breakdown of tenants in Ōtaki*
- *the number of tenancy turnovers in the last 5 years*
- *the reasons for tenancy turnovers (eviction, deaths, moving out of area etc)*
- *the number on the waiting list by property size over the last 5 years for Ōtaki*
- *the number of people housed in Ōtaki from the waiting list who lived in Ōtaki over the last 5 years*
- *the number of people housed from outside Ōtaki in Ōtaki over the last 5 years*
- *the average length of time on the waiting list to be housed in Ōtaki, and*
- *the occupation rate of Kāinga Ora tenancies over the last 5 years.*

On 12 January 2021, under section 14 of the Act, the Ministry transferred part of your request to Kāinga Ora. The Ministry will be answering the following questions in relation to your request:

1. *The number on the waiting list by property size over the last 5 years for Ōtaki*
2. *The average length of time on the waiting list to be housed in Ōtaki*
3. *The number of people housed in Ōtaki from the waiting list who lived in Ōtaki over the last 5 years, and*
4. *The number of people housed from outside Ōtaki in Ōtaki over the last 5 years.*

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, we capture that as part of the assessment process. Clients who are on the Register are referred to Public Housing providers when suitable properties become available.

Clients who approach the Ministry seeking public housing are offered other assistance appropriate to their situation. These options include, for example, an Accommodation Supplement for private renters, 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.

In response to your questions, the Ministry is unable to provide you with information relating to the Public Housing Register for the Ōtaki area, because the Ministry only reports on clients' preferred letting areas and placements at the Territorial Local Authority (TLA) level (i.e., Kāpiti in this instance). Any breakdown smaller than TLA is held in notes on 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 all of your questions in your request under section 18(f) of the 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.

However, I can advise that the Ministry has publicly available data relating to the Public Housing Register for the Kāpiti District, which can be found on the Ministry's website, here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/index.html.

Furthermore, to be helpful, the Ministry has provided you with information on the median time to house applicants on the Public Housing Register for the Kāpiti District TLA. Please see the following the following attached in **Appendix One**:

- **Table One: The median time to house applicants on the Public Housing Register for the Kāpiti Coast District TLA, for quarters ending September 2016 to September 2020**

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 and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments 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 information on the Public Housing Register in Ōtaki, 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

Table One: The median time to house applicants on the Public Housing Register for Kāpiti Coast District TLA, for quarters ending September 2016 to September 2020.

Quarter ending	Average days to house
September 2016	61
December 2016	11
March 2017	43
June 2017	62
September 2017	38
December 2017	93
March 2018	162
June 2018	125
September 2018	230
December 2018	90
March 2019	113
June 2019	221
September 2019	327
December 2019	64
March 2020	153
June 2020	407
September 2020	268

Notes

- Applicants are considered to be housed in Public Housing when the application register status is changed to "active tenancy".
- The date a tenancy is activated may differ from the tenancy start date.
- The quarter in which the tenancy is activated is the quarter in which the application is reported as housed in.
- Applicants may have been housed from the Housing Register or the Transfer Register.
- Applications are either housed with Kāinga Ora or Community Housing Providers (CHPs).
- The median days to house is the midpoint of the time-to-house values.
- The strong spike of the data in June 2020 is related to the strong surge in applications due to COVID-19.
- The data only includes priority A and B applications.
- The priority A and B applications used in these tables are as at the end of each quarter and may have changed prior to this date.
- The Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the main applicant's residential address as at the end of each period.