



20 July 2022

Tēnā koe

On 5 July 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. A table or sheet please showing how many people were on the housing register broken down by priority ratings for people between B8 to A20, for each quarter since December 2017 through to March 2022, or June 2022 if/when available.*
- 2. I also seek the median wait time for people on the housing register to be housed, classified for each of the priority ratings between B8 to A20, for each quarter since September 2017, through to March 2022, or June 2022 if/when available.*

The Ministry has granted your request in full.

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 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. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (the Register). While the Ministry completes the housing assessments which inform the Register, responsibility for funding and supply sits with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Kainga Ora, respectively. More information about the 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.

The Ministry assesses the client's need for Public Housing through the Social Allocation System (SAS). The SAS assessment covers five criteria: Adequacy, suitability, affordability, accessibility, and sustainability. Each category has a rating from one to four with four being the highest level of risk. The rating across these five criteria makes up a priority rating of up to 20. You can find more information regarding the SAS assessment criteria at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html.

Clients who approach the Ministry seeking public housing are offered other assistance appropriate to their situation. This can include support to secure private rentals including assistance with rent and bond, tenancy costs cover letter, Accommodation Supplement, helping with the cost of Emergency Housing through Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNG), and linking clients with Housing Brokers to match clients to suitable housing. More information about the Ministry's Housing Support Products can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/housing-support-products/index.htm.

Public and Community housing providers are responsible for matching those on the Public Housing Register with available properties. They have discretion to select the household they believe will fit best with that property based on a number of factors. Because there is a shortage of appropriate public houses available to match people's individual needs, households with a high housing need will not always necessarily be placed before other households with lower priority ratings. Often the factors that cause a household to be in high housing need will be the very factors that work against it in the selection and placement process. For example, a large family that requires a modified house in an area where there are few public houses available would have more difficulty being placed than a household with a lower priority rating in an area with greater supply of public houses.

Please see enclosed the following two tables in the attached Excel Spreadsheet:

- **Table One:** Number of Applicants on the Public Housing Register as at the end of each quarter in the period 30 September 2017 to 31 March 2022, and
- **Table Two:** The median time to house in days by priority and position from quarter ending December 2017 to March 2022.

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 and attachments on the Ministry'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 number of people on the Public Housing register and the median time to house, 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
**Group General Manager
Housing**

Table One: Number of Applicants on the Public Housing Register as at the end of each quarter in the period 30 September 2017 to 31 March 2022
by Priority Rating and Quarter end

Request number: BIIM-1192

Source: IAP Data Warehouse, prepared by Business Intelligence, Insights MSD Group, Ministry of Social Development

Notes:

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 includes applications both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register. The priority and position may change throughout the application's time on the Register.

To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table. The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals. The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

Priority and Position	September 2017	December 2017	March 2018	June 2018	September 2018	December 2018	March 2019	June 2019	September 2019	December 2019	March 2020	June 2020	September 2020	December 2020	March 2021	June 2021	September 2021	December 2021	March 2022
A20	6	3	3	6	6	9	21	42	60	72	93	102	135	168	216	231	258	258	297
A19	9	9	15	18	27	45	75	111	174	252	297	357	444	522	648	744	918	948	1,041
A18	30	48	84	54	78	132	249	333	522	585	735	888	1,086	1,200	1,470	1,698	1,986	2,226	2,472
A17	93	141	198	192	219	315	543	687	1,071	1,257	1,506	1,800	2,241	2,511	2,835	3,171	3,693	3,537	3,789
A16	201	279	441	375	513	672	879	1,143	1,647	2,061	2,319	2,730	3,258	3,513	3,675	3,942	3,960	4,353	4,590
A15	450	540	801	726	969	1,311	1,485	1,812	2,172	2,412	2,649	3,243	3,768	3,990	4,257	4,560	4,122	4,557	4,752
A14	756	876	1,233	1,167	1,365	1,883	1,785	2,157	2,526	2,595	2,871	3,342	3,810	3,963	4,056	4,305	4,149	4,380	4,464
A13	999	1,089	1,437	1,572	1,722	1,998	1,977	2,136	2,349	2,397	2,547	2,784	3,195	3,318	3,432	3,693	3,282	3,336	3,432
A12	1,041	1,107	1,284	1,518	1,623	1,710	1,895	1,860	1,908	1,878	2,046	2,169	2,388	2,439	2,463	2,751	2,328	2,364	2,511
A11	762	801	1,032	1,125	1,206	1,242	1,209	1,227	1,191	1,188	1,269	1,269	1,437	1,425	1,491	1,152	1,437	1,395	1,437
A10	414	420	549	654	633	609	543	612	591	552	609	609	663	675	660	561	615	621	642
A9	147	180	210	219	249	225	213	210	177	177	168	189	225	222	225	171	210	210	204
B15	6	9	6	12	15	9	12	12	21	18	21	18	21	24	18	15	15	18	12
B14	45	33	54	60	45	57	57	69	69	72	72	81	84	75	87	66	69	69	75
B13	135	129	165	162	153	183	174	195	201	222	198	180	216	213	189	159	183	201	210
B12	342	291	333	420	423	441	384	378	378	402	423	405	453	444	450	345	378	402	393
B11	513	486	504	636	678	723	612	555	581	597	555	522	621	648	636	489	576	579	594
B10	624	555	581	765	798	792	744	684	636	642	639	615	663	678	666	546	642	660	687
B9	516	495	519	609	573	627	537	462	420	414	414	396	456	492	489	399	414	432	456
B8	237	231	237	288	315	303	276	213	192	207	189	177	204	222	219	162	189	210	222
Total	7,329	7,725	9,696	10,587	11,610	13,086	13,473	14,889	16,866	17,997	19,620	21,879	25,365	26,745	28,176	29,160	25,421	30,750	32,277

Table Two: The median time to house in days by priority and position from quarter ending December 2017 to March 2022
by priority position and quarter ending

Request number: BIIM-1136

Source: IAP Data Warehouse, prepared by Business Intelligence, Insights MSD Group, Ministry of Social Development

Notes:

The median time to house is the midpoint of the time to house values. Median time to house has been rounded up to the nearest full day. This includes applications both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register. This includes priority A and B applications. The A and B priority applications used in this table are as at the end of the quarter and may have changed prior to this date.

Quarter Ending	December 2017	March 2018	June 2018	September 2018	December 2018	March 2019	June 2019	September 2019	December 2019	March 2020	June 2020	September 2020	December 2020	March 2021	June 2021	September 2021	December 2021	March 2022
A20	45	37	36	118	68	76	187	65	101	133	249	249	265	146	238	287	271	374
A19	23	71	81	36	113	114	121	101	144	154	175	182	260	207	252	187	224	328
A18	38	84	89	95	118	118	159	118	138	158	199	211	213	195	266	221	301	334
A17	50	61	84	97	97	132	149	146	151	160	201	218	190	247	217	297	195	243
A16	68	74	78	106	96	124	164	147	91	171	173	194	179	186	169	220	152	195
A15	81	72	84	89	117	132	138	132	125	126	136	150	134	134	161	139	140	197
A14	61	71	88	114	109	90	97	99	115	92	98	107	94	102	120	145	155	101
A13	59	60	76	93	91	92	95	82	105	94	118	89	80	134	121	141	105	176
A12	61	61	53	70	82	79	91	64	87	59	56	50	104	46	86	47	164	105
A11	34	45	35	41	46	87	33	34	46	67	60	39	60	15	69	63	72	190
A10	23	29	28	48	30	21	54	36	42	46	83	48	143	15	61	48	105	12
A9	20	61	14	20	27	41	57	53	51	72	32	26	46	15	37	17	39	186
B15	0	0	184	727	0	105	0	0	783	36	146	0	0	616	14	0	0	0
B14	68	24	0	83	129	0	35	152	432	33	35	213	138	306	166	0	0	71
B13	301	457	79	55	61	44	42	94	174	88	107	41	38	157	44	119	44	65
B12	119	86	113	34	140	84	32	59	83	190	118	115	97	83	36	129	116	161
B11	81	53	83	83	200	93	55	70	98	73	54	128	70	49	63	64	128	296
B10	92	62	50	53	78	115	44	62	96	115	14	29	146	60	33	98	80	45
B9	54	36	53	23	119	48	72	28	74	40	66	72	83	111	42	76	33	28
B8	52	17	110	25	215	23	110	62	39	30	0	289	98	15	36	25	18	264