



11 October 2022

Tēnā koe

On 8 August 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many of those on the housing register receive the accommodation supplement while they wait for public housing?*
- *What is the amount of the supplement paid to those on the register?*

On the same day, your request was transferred under section 14 of the Act to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) on the basis that the information you requested is believed to be more closely related to the functions of the Ministry.

On 5 September 2022, a letter was sent to you to advise you that the Ministry had received your request, however required more time to respond to your request. The reason for the extension was that consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

On 29 September 2022, the Ministry advised that it had decided to grant your request and that the information would be with you by 14 October 2022.

When New Zealanders need 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 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/housing-register.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 rent and bond, Accommodation Supplement or Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNG), for emergency housing. Accommodation Supplement (AS) is a weekly payment which helps people with their private rental, board or the cost of owning their own home. AS cannot be paid to people who rent a Social Housing property as these properties qualify for Income Related Rent (IRR) that is paid directly to their Social Housing provider. More information about IRR can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/live-in-home/live-in-public-housing/index.html.

Please see **Table One** below, showing the number of clients receiving Accommodation Supplement who are registered on the Public Housing Register, broken average weekly amount paid and total weekly amount paid, broken down by quarter ending June 2022.

As at end of / Register type		Number of clients	Average weekly rate	Total weekly rate
June 2022	Housing Register	13,011	\$111.78	\$1,454,192.45
	Transfer Register	276	\$60.52	\$16,765.00
Total		13,284	\$110.71	\$1,470,957.45

Notes for **Table One**:

- 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.
- A client who pays board to someone to live in a Social Housing property may be able to get an Accommodation Supplement based on their board costs.
- In certain cases a client who is paying rent to a registered community housing provider for a property that is not contracted for Income Related Rent purposes can get Accommodation Supplement
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of 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.

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'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

PP. 

Karen Hocking
Group General Manager
Housing