



25 October 2022

Tēnā koe

On 20 September 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I want to know how many of the applicants there are on the MSD housing register who are 55 years of age, or older, in Counties Manukau?*
- *Do you also have the same figures over the past five years (to compare the same month over the last five years)?*

On 19 October 2022, the Ministry advised you that more time was required 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. This extension was done in accordance with section 15(1) and 15A of the Act, and the Ministry's decision will be with you no later than 3 November 2022.

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, also known as the Social 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](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/index.html).

Eligibility for public housing is confined to clients who are determined at risk (priority A) or in serious housing need (priority B). Housing need is determined as part of the Social Allocation System (SAS). The Social Allocation System:

- is the assessment tool used to process applications for public housing, and
- makes sure public housing is available only to those in the highest need who do not have alternative housing options

There are five criteria used to establish the priority rating for a client. Each criterion can be rated from one to four, with the maximum priority rating being A20. The criteria are as follows:

- **Adequacy** - focuses on whether the client needs accommodation or needs to move from their current accommodation due to not currently living in any accommodation or living in emergency housing for the time-being; the physical condition/structure or lack of basic facilities of the accommodation, over-crowding or lack of security of tenure of their current accommodation. You can read more information here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/adequacy-of-current-housing-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/adequacy-of-current-housing-01.html).
- **Suitability** - focuses on needing to move due to: medical, disability or personal needs or family violence or neighbourhood tension (including tension within the household) or other violence relating to the client's current living situation ability to access, afford and sustain alternative housing (that is, the capacity to rent in the private market). You can read more information here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/suitability-of-current-housing-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/suitability-of-current-housing-01.html).
- **Affordability** - focuses on the ability to afford alternative, suitable housing in the private market. You can read more information here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/risk-rating-for-affordability-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/risk-rating-for-affordability-01.html).
- **Accessibility** - focuses on the ability to access and afford suitable and adequate housing as a result of discrimination, lack of financial means to move and availability of alternative, affordable suitable housing in the private market. You can read more information here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/risk-rating-for-accessibility-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/risk-rating-for-accessibility-01.html).
- **Sustainability** - focuses on financial management difficulties and difficulties in social functioning and lack of social skills. You can read more information here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/sustainability-of-alternative-housing-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/sustainability-of-alternative-housing-01.html).

Please find overleaf **Table One**: which shows the number of primary applicants aged 55 years and over who are on the Public Housing Register in selected Auckland City Boards, as at 31 August, for the years 2018 to 2022, broken down by Auckland City Boards.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Public Housing Register, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Karen Hocking  
**Group General Manager  
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## APPENDIX

**Table One: The number of primary applicants aged 55 years and over on the Public Housing Register in selected Auckland City Boards as at 31 August for the years 2018 to 2022, broken down by Auckland City Board.**

<b>Auckland City Board</b>	<b>31 August 2018</b>	<b>31 August 2019</b>	<b>31 August 2020</b>	<b>31 August 2021</b>	<b>31 August 2022</b>
<b>Franklin</b>	30	33	39	42	54
<b>Howick</b>	33	45	75	105	114
<b>Mangere - Otahuhu</b>	90	135	195	204	237
<b>Manurewa</b>	81	138	174	186	183
<b>Otara - Papatoetoe</b>	78	111	159	177	168
<b>Papakura</b>	48	63	81	111	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>861</b>

### Notes for Table One:

- This only includes applications of priority A & B.
- This includes applications both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register.
- Auckland City Board is based on the client's current residential address. Auckland City Board is only available for geocoded records.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry 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.