



14 September 2022

Tēnā koe

On 9 August 2022, Kāinga Ora transferred your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry). You requested the following information:

1. *In the last 10 years, how many review of decisions were heard specifically on being removed from the wait list?*
2. *Is the risk of losing a job in the criteria for housing priority?*

On 6 September 2022, in accordance with section 15(1) and 15A of the Act, your request was extended to 14 September 2022. The reason for the extension was that consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original time limit.

The Ministry took over the function of managing the Public Housing Register from the then Housing New Zealand Corporation (HNZC) on 14 April 2014. The Ministry does not hold any data prior to this date.

From this time, the functions of the State Housing Appeal Authority (SHAA) were taken over by the Social Security Appeal Authority (SSAA). Reviews of a decision post-14 April 2014 were managed by the Ministry and could be appealed to the SSAA. Reviews of decisions pre-14 April 2014 were managed by Kainga Ora (formerly HNZC) and could be appealed to the SHAA.

The following policy changes since 2014 may have had an impact on the number of reviews of decisions:

- **July 2014:** Reviewable tenancies were extended to most public housing tenants. Since 2011, reviewable tenancies had applied only to new public housing tenants.
- **January 2016:** Changes to discourage people on the public housing waiting list (register) from refusing a reasonable offer of social housing were introduced. The changes included: reducing from three to one the number of times a person could decline a public house without a good and sufficient reason before they were removed from the social

housing register; and where reasonable, requiring people on the public housing register to name a minimum of three suburbs in which they could live – up from one. People who refused a property without a good and sufficient reason were removed from the public housing register for 13 weeks.

- **April 2016:** All public housing tenants were required to inform the Ministry immediately of any change in their circumstances that might affect the rent that they paid, their eligibility for public housing or their need for the property in which they were living. Public housing tenants were also required to report any changes in the circumstances of their partner, other applicable tenants in the property and of the partners they have.
- **March 2018 - February 2019:** Public housing tenancy reviews were suspended. When they resumed in February 2019 a significant proportion of the public housing tenants (around 80%) were exempt from the review process.

The Ministry will respond to your requests in turn.

1. *In the last 10 years, how many review of decisions were heard specifically on being removed from the wait list?*

Please find enclosed **Table One** which shows the how many review of decisions (RoDs) were heard specifically on being removed from the wait list for the fiscal years from 2012 to 2022.

**Table One: How many Review of Decisions were heard by the Ministry with the reason 'Removed from the Wait List', from 1 April to the end of March 2012 to 2022.**

Period [Fiscal Years]	01/07/2015 to 30/06/2016	01/07/2016 to 30/06/2017	01/07/2017 to 30/06/2018	01/07/2018 to 30/06/2019	01/07/2019 to 30/06/2020	01/07/2020 to 30/06/2021	01/07/2021 to 30/06/2022
Number heard by BRCs	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Notes:**

- Search for the required reason yielded "0" result in 2012 to 2015 fiscal year, as this predated the time the Ministry took over the function of managing the Public Housing Register, tenancy assessment portfolio.
- The information has been extracted on fiscal year basis
- The Ministry used the reason code "Housing Removal from Waiting List" search from 2015/2016 to 2021/2022 years.

2. *Is the risk of losing a job in the criteria for housing priority?*

The Ministry can confirm that the 'risk of losing a job' is not a criterion that determines priority rating on the Housing Register.

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, 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



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