



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

25 October 2023

Tēnā koe

On 28 September 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Can you please provide ethnicity data for people on the Housing Register in Masterton, Carterton, and South Wairarapa districts by quarter, for the period 2018-2023?

When New Zealanders need Public Housing, their needs are recorded either on the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The Housing Register shows people who are currently not in Public Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Public Housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in Public Housing who have applied to be rehoused. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (the Register). While the Ministry manages the Register, Kāinga Ora and Community Housing Providers match prospective tenants (provided by the Ministry through completed housing assessments) with houses. Kāinga Ora and Community Housing Providers also assist with starting and ending tenancies, manage tenancy agreements, transfer tenants, and manage and maintain houses to an agreed standard. Responsibility for funding and supply of Public Housing sits with the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development and Kāinga Ora respectively.

The Register is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. Placing people and families into houses is about matching them with the right house in the area they want to live. This includes ensuring the family has the right number of bedrooms, is close to essential services as schools, and that the accommodation meets any disability needs if appropriate. Those assessed as having a greater need for housing will be prioritised. As people's need change, their priority on the Registry may also change. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

Further information regarding the assessment of a client's housing need, housing need priority ratings, and the calculation of overall priority ratings can be found on the Work and Income website, here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html.

Please refer to **Table One** in the attached **Appendix** which provides the number of primary applicants on the Public Housing Register in Carterton District, Masterton District, and South Wairarapa District Territorial Local Authorities, as at the end of each quarter from 31 March 2018 to 30 June 2023, broken down by Territorial Local Authority, and Total Response Ethnicity.

In order to protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in favour of release.

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 any 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 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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Karen Hocking
Group General Manager ,Housing