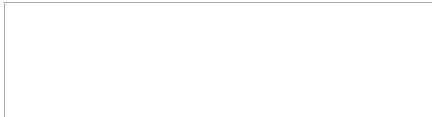




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

12 DEC 2016



On 11 October 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A regional breakdown of homelessness, including South Canterbury*

As I have previously advised, the Ministry of Social Development does not hold a record of homelessness. It is too simplistic to assume that every person who is without secure accommodation considers themselves homeless and/or seeks help from the Ministry.

The Ministry does hold information on the number of applications on the Social Housing Register where the primary reason for the application was given as 'homelessness'. Please note, the primary reason for a social housing application is based on the application responses provided by the main applicant at the time they applied. This may not reflect the situation of all household members included in the application. While waiting to be placed in social housing they may also be placed in emergency or temporary accommodation, meaning their circumstances may have changed subsequently.

Please find attached a table showing the number of applications on the Social Housing Register where the primary reason for the application was given as homelessness, broken down by Territorial Local Authority, as at the end of September 2016.

You have requested a breakdown of the South Canterbury region. The Ministry reports on Social Housing applications by Territorial Local Authority. For the purpose of your request South Canterbury includes the Timaru and Waimate districts.

Unfortunately I am unable to provide you with the number of applications on the Social Housing Register in the Timaru district where the primary reason for the application was given as 'homelessness' as at the end of September 2016, as there are fewer than six applications, and releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of Official Information Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information. Other areas on the enclosed table have also been suppressed for the same reason. Please note that

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there were no applications in the Waimate district where the primary reason for the application was given as homelessness as at the end of September 2016.

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 after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development'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.

Yours sincerely



Kay Read

Associate Deputy Chief Executive, Social Housing

Table One: The number of applications on the Social Housing Register where the primary reason for the application was given as homelessness, broken down by Territorial Local Authority, as at the end of September 2016

Territorial Local Authority (TLA)	Number of applications
Ashburton District	S
Auckland Super City	256
Buller District	0
Central Hawke's Bay District	S
Central Otago District	0
Christchurch City	101
Clutha District	0
Dunedin City	9
Far North District	S
Gisborne District	12
Gore District	0
Grey District	S
Hamilton City	30
Hastings District	11
Hauraki District	0
Horowhenua District	S
Hurunui District	S
Invercargill City	S
Kaikoura District	0
Kaipara District	0
Kapiti Coast District	7
Kawerau District	S
Lower Hutt City	17
Manawatu District	S
Marlborough District	9
Masterton District	S
Matamata-Piako District	S
Napier City	19
Nelson City	7
New Plymouth District	8
Opotiki District	S
Otorohanga District	S
Palmerston North City	23
Porirua City	16
Queenstown-Lakes District	0
Rangitikei District	S
Rotorua District	8

Territorial Local Authority (TLA)	Number of applications
Ruapehu District	0
Selwyn District	0
South Taranaki District	0
South Waikato District	S
Southland District	0
Taranua District	0
Tasman District	S
Taupo District	S
Tauranga District	30
Thames-Coromandel District	S
Timaru District	S
Unknown/Other	21
Upper Hutt City	S
Waikato District	S
Waimakariri District	0
Waimate District	0
Waipa District	S
Wairoa District	0
Waitaki District	0
Waitomo District	0
Wanganui District	S
Wellington City	35
Western Bay Of Plenty District	S
Westland District	S
Whakatane District	S
Whangarei District	11
Total	692

Notes:

- The primary reason is based on the application responses provided by the main applicant on the application. This may not reflect the situation of all household members included in the application.
- This data includes applications on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register.
- This only includes priority A and B applications. The A and B priority applications used in this table are as at 30 September 2016 and may have changed before or after this date.
- The TLA is based on the client's current residential address.
- Counts of five or less have been suppressed (S) to protect people's privacy.