



25 MAY 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 1 May 2018, Housing New Zealand transferred the following portion of your request, made on 30 April 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982, to the Ministry:

- *In the Hutt Valley, how long, approximately, are people waiting for placement on the social housing register.*

The Social Housing 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 such as schools, and that the accommodation meets any disability needs if appropriate. Those assessed as having the greater need for housing will be prioritised higher. As people's needs change, their priority on the Register may change also. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

Nationally there is an issue of housing demand exceeding supply. More housing is needed to support the most vulnerable people in our community and the Ministry is working to increase the amount of Public Housing.

All clients who approach the Ministry seeking Public Housing are offered other financial assistance where it is appropriate for their situation. This can include Accommodation Supplement for private rent, Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, or a Recoverable Assistance Payment Grant. Further information regarding available support can be accessed on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses/housing.html.

The Social Housing Register consists of the Housing Register and the Transfer Register. The Housing Register records those who are not currently in Public Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Public Housing. The Transfer Register represents those already in Public Housing who are eligible to be rehoused, generally due to a change in circumstances prompting a move to somewhere more appropriate to their needs.

The table overleaf shows the median days to house clients on the Social Housing Register in the Wellington Region, broken down by territory authority, for the quarter ending 31 December 2017.

Number of applications housed in the Wellington Region and time to house by territorial authority for the quarter ending 31 December 2017.

Wellington Region	Number of applications housed	Median days to house
Lower Hutt City	71	72
Porirua City	58	48
Upper Hutt City	s	39
Wellington City	51	61

Note:

- The number of applications housed contains both applicants from the Social Housing Register and Transfer Register.
- 's' represents numbers five or under suppressed under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of individuals.

The length of time an application remains on the Social Housing Register can be dependent on a number of reasons. For example, an applicant may remain on the Register for a longer period of time where they have specific preferences about where they need to be housed, have a change in circumstances while they are on the Register, or seek housing in areas which have high demand.

The Ministry reports Social Housing Register data on a quarterly basis. The latest numbers for the social housing register are available at:

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/housing-quarterly-report-march-2018.pdf>

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 available to the wider public shortly. 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



Scott Gallacher

Deputy Chief Executive Housing