



15 SEP 2020

Dear

On 20 August 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Number of applicants on the public housing register at 31 July 2020 for the Nelson City area, broken down by age group (24 and under, 25-39, 40-54, 55-64, 65+). Separately, for the public housing register and the transfer register.*
- *Number of applicants on the public housing register at 31 July 2020 for the Nelson City area, broken down by priority rating (Priority A and Priority B). Separately, for the public housing register and the transfer register.*

The Public Housing Register is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. 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. Placing people and families into public housing accommodation is about matching them with the right property in the area they want to live. Those assessed as having a greater need for housing will be prioritised higher. As people's needs change their priority and place on the register may change also.

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 represents applicants already in social housing who need to be rehoused for reasons such as there being too few or too many bedrooms in their current social house, or for health reasons. The number of people on the Housing and Transfer Registers are subject to change, as people come on and off the Register and as their circumstances change.

Each housing application is given a priority rating based on the Ministry's assessment of housing need, and all applications are measured against the same criteria to determine that priority rating. Applicants who are assessed as at risk (Priority A) or as having a serious housing need (Priority B) are placed on the Register until a house becomes available. The Ministry's role is to assess people's needs for public housing and if they or a family member need an accessible home, the Ministry captures that as part of the assessment process. Clients who are on the Register are referred to public housing providers when suitable properties become available.

Please note, while the Ministry does 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.

To answer your request, please find two tables enclosed as Appendix A, showing the number of applications on the Housing Register and Transfer Register for Nelson City Territorial Local Authority (TLA). Table One shows the number of applications broken down by age, and Table Two reflects the number of applications broken down by priority rating.

The Ministry is currently unable to provide you with the number of applications on the Register for July 2020, as the Ministry only reports to the end of the latest financial quarter. If you wish, the Ministry can provide you with this information once the data is available at the end of the next financial quarter, after 30 September 2020. Please advise if you would like this information at the end of the next financial quarter.

The Ministry also publishes the number of applications on the Public Housing Register at the end of each financial quarter on its website. This information includes breakdowns by assessed priority, household demographics and by region (Territorial Authority and local board for Auckland). July's data will be published after 30 September 2020 as part of the next quarterly update. This information will be available at the end of the next financial quarter 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).

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 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](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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Hocking', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Karen Hocking  
**General Manager, Housing**

## Appendix A

**Table One: Number of applicants on the Public Housing Register in the Nelson City Territorial Local Authority (TLA) as end of June 2020, broken down by age**

Age group	Housing Register	Transfer Register	Public Housing Register
<25	S	S	32
25-39	76	19	95
40-54	56	7	63
55-64	31	7	38
65+	S	S	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>249</b>

**Table Two: Number of applicants on the Public Housing Register in the Nelson City Territorial Local Authority (TLA) as end of June 2020**

Priority on the register	Housing Register	Transfer Register	Public Housing Register
<b>A</b>	188	30	218
<b>B</b>	24	7	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>249</b>

### Notes:

- The notes pertain to both Table One and Table Two.
- This is a count of applications not individuals and includes applicants on the Housing Register and Transfer Register.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the main applicant's residential address as at the end of June 2020.
- Un-geocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a TLA through suburb and city details have an unknown TLA and are not included in this report.
- This only includes priority A and B applications. The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at the end of June 2020 and may have changed prior to this date.
- In certain circumstances, low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified.
- Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated.
- Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.