



3 AUG 2021

Tēnā koe

On 9 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *People on the housing waiting list from Shannon, a small town in Horowhenua, for the last 5 years.*
- *Their levels of priority, and how long on average people tend to stay on the list.*

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing, and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing driving up house prices and rents. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs and many seek financial help through the Ministry.

After a client applies for public housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. 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 shows people already in public housing but who have applied to be rehoused in a more suitable public house. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (The Register). Although the Ministry is responsible for assessing eligibility for social housing, responsibility for funding and supply of the houses sits with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Kāinga Ora respectively. More information about the Housing Register is available 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).

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 suitable property becomes available. Those on the Register will be contacted on a regular basis to confirm their circumstances and are referred to public housing providers when suitable properties become available. More information about Social Allocation System, which the Ministry uses to assess social housing need, can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html)

Furthermore, clients who approach the Ministry seeking public housing are often offered other assistance appropriate to their situation. Which might include, for example, an Accommodation Supplement for private renters or a Recoverable Assistance Payment rent arrears. Further information regarding available support can be found on the Ministry's website, here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses/housing.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses/housing.html).

In response to the first part of your request, we have provided **Table One** below, which shows the number of clients with a current Shannon address on the Public Housing Register as at the end of March in the years 2017 to 2021.

**Table One: The number of clients with a current Shannon address on the Public Housing Register as at 31 March 2021**

Month ending	Housing Register		
	Priority		Total
	A	B	
<b>March 2017</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>March 2018</b>	3	0	<b>0</b>
<b>March 2019</b>	6	0	<b>9</b>
<b>March 2020</b>	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>March 2021</b>	9	0	<b>9</b>

**Notes for Table One:**

- The A and B priority applications used in this table is as at the end of the month and may have changed prior to this date.
- The data is based on clients who were recorded as residing in Shannon on the date their social housing application went live.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

In response to the second part of your request, we can advise that, between 1 January 2017 and 31 March 2021, the average time (in days) to house clients on the Public Housing Register who reside in Shannon was 45.67 days.

Please note, that the time to house is defined as the number of calendar days between the date an application is first confirmed live on the Social Housing Register as an 'A' or 'B' priority and the date a tenancy is activated for that application. Furthermore, in this case, the data is based upon clients who were recorded as residing in Shannon on the date their social housing application went live and could include clients who were housed after a period on the Housing Register, the Transfer Register, or both.

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 regarding clients on the Public Housing Register from Shannon, 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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