



21 JAN 2021

On 30 November 2020, you emailed Kāinga Ora, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) the following information:

- 1. Is Kāinga Ora currently only housing those with a priority rating of A17 or higher?*
- 2. Currently how many 3 Bedroom properties are available and ready to let in Christchurch city?*

On 7 December 2020, question one of your request was transferred from Kāinga Ora to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) for response because the information was more closely related to our functions and responsibilities. You can expect to receive a response from Kāinga Ora in response to question two of your request.

Background

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.

When New Zealanders are in need of public housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. While the Ministry completes the housing assessments which inform the Public Housing Register, responsibility for funding and the supply of 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.

How people are housed

The Public Housing Register is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly. 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 and that the accommodation meets any disability needs if appropriate.

Therefore, in response to your question about whether Kāinga Ora are currently only housing those with a priority rating of A17 or higher, the Ministry can advise that whether someone is housed is not solely based on them having a certain priority rating (such as those with a rating of A17 or higher).

In addition to the priority rating, the type and location of the property has to match the preferred letting areas of an applicant and the required typology of the home (e.g. the number of bedrooms). When a house becomes available, MSD refer the highest prioritised applicants that would match the property to Kāinga Ora.

Other information

There is also a fast-track provision which recognises certain households applying for Public Housing are at risk of experiencing negative outcomes and that getting the household into Public Housing more quickly will help improve their long-term outcomes.

A household can be fast-tracked into the next available (suitable) public housing property even if there are other people with a higher priority rating in the following circumstances:

- the household has children at risk of rheumatic fever – designated by North Island District Health Board areas only
- the household has a specified child or young person who is in custody under the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 or is in an approved permanent care arrangement.

Further information about the fast-track provision can be found online at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/fast-track-provision.html.

Further information regarding the assessment of people'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.

The Ministry publishes the number of applications on the Public Housing Register at the end of each financial quarter on our website. This information includes breakdowns by assessed priority, household demographics and by region (Territorial Authority and local board for Auckland). This information can be found here:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications/resources/statistics/housing/index.html.

Further information about Public Housing can also be found on the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's website at the following link: <https://www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/>.

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. 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 regarding housing those with a priority rating of A17 or higher, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response relating to the Public 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.

Yours sincerely



Karen Hocking
General Manager, Housing