



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

05 MAR 2021

On 20 January 2021, you spoke to a Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) Regional Development Manager and verbally requested information relating to how many Ngāti Rārua whānau are on the public housing register in the Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough region by priority levels A, B, C and D. This request has been processed in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

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, which is 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. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing 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. While the Ministry completes 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. More information about the Housing Register is available here: 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 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, this is captured as part of the assessment process. Clients who are 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.

On 1 July 2011, changes to the social housing system were made which included a different way of processing priority C and D clients. The priority C and D clients were determined to have lower housing needs and it was identified that they would remain on the list for longer periods. The system was therefore changed to provide other types of housing assistance to priority C and D clients through Housing New Zealand's Options and Advice Service. More information on these changes can be found on the Beehive website at the following link: www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-rules-fairer-social-housing-system.

As such, the Ministry does not hold data relating to priority C and D clients. This part of your request is therefore refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the Act, that the information requested does not exist.

Further information regarding the assessment of a client's housing need, housing need priority ratings, and details of 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 Public 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 also change. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

Clients who approach the Ministry seeking public housing are offered other assistance appropriate to their situation. This can include Accommodation Supplement for private rent, Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNG), 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.

In terms of your request, as only a small number of Ngāti Rārua applications have been identified by the Ministry, these lower numbers cannot be released as it may potentially lead to individuals being identified. When statistics relating to persons are less than six, it is Ministry policy to withhold them in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

However, in order to assist, the Ministry has identified all data relating to the eight Te Tau Ihu (top of the South Island) iwi and has combined this information in the tables released to you at Appendix One. This has been done in order to avoid the need for total suppression of the data.

Enclosed in Appendix One are the following tables which provide a response to your request:

- **Table One:** Te Tau Ihu Public Housing Register applications in the Marlborough District, Tasman District and Nelson City Council Territorial Authority areas by priority on the register, as at 30 September 2020.
- **Table Two:** Te Tau Ihu Public Housing Register applications in the Marlborough District, Tasman District and Nelson City Council Territorial Authority areas by register, as at 30 September 2020.
- **Table Three:** Te Tau Ihu Public Housing Register applications in the Marlborough District, Tasman District and Nelson City Council Territorial Authority areas by household type, as at 30 September 2020.

For your reference, the data released to you in Appendix One refers to the following iwi:

- Ngāti Apa
- Ngāti Kuia
- Ngāti Koata
- Ngāti Rārua
- Rangitāne
- Te Atiawa
- Ngāti Tama
- Ngāti Toa

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.

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.

Ngā mihi nui



 Karen Hocking
General Manager
Housing

Appendix One

Table One: Te Tau Ihu Public Housing Register applications in the Marlborough District, Tasman District and Nelson City Council Territorial Authority areas by priority on the register, as at 30 September 2020.

As at the end of	Priority on the Register		Total
	A	B	
September 2020	S	S	31

Table Two: Te Tau Ihu Public Housing Register applications in the Marlborough District, Tasman District and Nelson City Council Territorial Authority areas by register, as at 30 September 2020.

As at the end of	Register		Total
	Housing Register	Transfer Register	
September 2020	25	6	31

Table Three: Te Tau Ihu Public Housing Register applications in the Marlborough District, Tasman District and Nelson City Council Territorial Authority areas by household type, as at 30 September 2020.

As at the end of	Household Type		Total
	One or more adults with one or more children	Single person	
September 2020	16	15	31

Notes for all tables:

- In these tables Te Tau Ihu iwi include Ngāti Apa, Ngāti Apa ki Te Ra To, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Tama (Te Waipounamu/South Island), Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Toa (Te Waipounamu), Ngāti Toarangatira (Te Waipounamu/South Island), Rangitāne, and Rangitāne (Te Waipounamu/South Island).
- Clients whose affiliation is specific to the North Island have not been included, for example Ngāti Apa (Rangitikei), Ngāti Tama (Taranaki), Ngāti Tama ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington), Ngāti Toa (Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara), Ngāti Toarangatira (Te Whanganui-a-Tara/Wellington), Rangitāne (Manawatu), Rangitāne (Te Matau-a-Maui/Hawkes Bay/Wairarapa), Te Atiawa (Taranaki), Te Atiawa (Te Whanganui-a-Tara/Wellington) and Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai.
- Iwi affiliation is self-reported. Some Māori clients will not have any iwi affiliations recorded. Clients can be affiliated to more than one iwi.
- Iwi affiliations are based on the main applicant for the Public Housing Register so may not be reflective of all people in the household.
- Statistics New Zealand's iwi classification and synonyms have been used to guide inclusion.
- Territorial Authority is based on the main applicant's current address and may not be reflective of where they want to live.
- The table includes priority A and B applications only. The priority A and B applications used in these tables are as at the end of the quarter and may have changed prior to this date.
- Applications on both the Housing Register and the Transfer Register are included.

- 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. These lower numbers are therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.